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AT LEAST 40 KILLED IN BOMB BLAST AT POLITICAL GATHERING IN PAK

More than 150 wounded in the blast at a gathering of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said

INITIAL PROBE SAYS IT WAS SUICIDE ATTACK

At least 500 members of the party had gathered under a tent in Khar, near the border with Afghanistan. The police said as per the initial investigation it was a suicide blast. JUI-F is a hardline Islamic party with pockets of influence in the Pashtun areas of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but IS has recently carried out attacks against JUI-F

BLAST COMES AS PAK PREPARES FOR POLLS

- Images circulating on social media showed bodies strewn around the scene, and volunteers helping blood-soaked victims to ambulances
- Toll may go up as at least 17 of the injured are in serious condition
- The attack comes as the Pakistan government is due to dissolve in the next few weeks ahead of elections expected in October or November

420 killed

SO FAR IN 2023 IN TERROR ATTACKS ACROSS PAK AS PER SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM PORTAL

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Situation going out of hand, warn Opposition MPs after meeting guv

Multi-party delegation of MPs submits memorandum to Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey

PREETHA NAIR & PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ New Delhi / Guwahati

THE government has failed to provide relief to the people of Manipur, alleged members of the multi-party delegation of MPs of the Opposition alliance I.N.D.I.A after concluding their two-day visit to the violence-hit state. On Sunday, the 21-member delegation submitted a memorandum to Governor Anusuiya Uikey, requesting her to do the needful to restore peace and inform the Centre of the 'complete breakdown of law and order'.

The MPs, who were in the state to conduct an on-the-spot assessment of the situation, visited relief camps where people from the two communities in conflict were lodged. They said they were shocked and sad to hear the stories of the inmates. They said there was anger and a sense of alienation among all communities and this should be addressed without delay.

They also alleged that it was established beyond doubt that the state machinery failed to control the situation. The MPs said the condition in the relief camps was pathetic and stressed that special care must be taken for the children on a priority basis.

"Tall remarks are made in Delhi and outside the country... Nobody is bothered. There is a lack of food and medicines. Students are suffering. No effort is being made to stop the fighting between the two sides," said Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Alleging that the Centre is blind to the crisis, he warned that the situation will go out of hand if not resolved soon.

"There is no trust between the two communities. There are two countries now — Kukiland and Meiteiland. They have no connection whatsoever with each other. We met the governor. She herself admitted the situation is bad," he said.

Speaking to this newspaper, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Kanimozhi said that they witnessed heart-wrenching scenes during their visit to the relief camps.

"We visited three relief camps packed with hundreds of people, mostly women and small children. They get meagre food. When it rains, the water comes inside and children fall sick," she said, adding that people wanted them to speak in Parliament and tell the world about their ordeal.

TMC MP Sushmita Dev, who met two victims of sexual violence, said the women are convinced that the government is complicit. "They repeatedly said that when the police are part of a crime, they are not hopeful of justice from the administration and the CM. Even after their submission that the police were present at the crime scene, the CM did not order an inquiry," said Dev, who was part of the delegation.

A delegation of Opposition bloc I.N.D.I.A submits a memorandum to Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey on their observations after visiting the state on Sunday | PTI

TRIFURCATE THE STATE, SAYS BJP LAWMAKER

Kuki leader and BJP MLA Paolienlal Haokip said on Sunday that the only way forward in solving the situation in Manipur is by dividing the state into three Union Territories for Kukis, Meiteis and Nagas. "The way forward, as I see it, is for the Union government to give political and administrative recognition to the ethnic separation, where the state of Manipur is reorganised as three Union territories," Haokip said in an interview to PTI

PM announces mega campaign to honour martyred bravehearts

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

SEEKING to fan patriotic fervour across the country ahead of next year's general elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced a mega campaign to honour martyrs. Called *Meri Mati Mera Desh* (my soil, my country), the campaign seeks to honour the country's martyred bravehearts of the country in the run-up to Independence Day.

Through the mega campaign, Modi is putting soldiers, who are upset not only about the revised pension scheme but also about Agnipath, on a pedestal. It is an attempt to bring back a wave of nationalism that gave him a second mandate after the 2019 Pulwama attack.

Announcing the launch of the campaign in the 103rd episode of his monthly radio bulletin *Mann Ki Baat*, PM Modi said an *Amrit Kalash Yatra* will be organised under the campaign and 7,500 pots carrying soil from different corners of the country will be brought to the national capital along with saplings.

The PM said special inscriptions will be installed in lakhs of villages and panchayats of the country in the memory of the braveheart men and women. Besides, a slew of programmes will be organised across the country in the memory of martyrs, he added.

"Amrit Kalash Yatra carrying soil from every corner of the country will reach Delhi. The yatra will also carry saplings from different parts of country and a big Amrit Vatika will be built near the National War Memorial by fusing the soil and saplings that would arrive in 7,500 urns," Modi said.

Recalling how the whole country came together for the Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra campaign last year, the PM called upon people to continue with the traditino of hoisting the tricolour an their houses this time as well.

"With these efforts, we will realise our duties.... we will realise the innumerable sacrifices made for the freedom of the country, we will realise the value of freedom. Hence, every person in the country must join in these efforts," he said.

TILAK AWARD

Sharad Pawar to attend event to honour PM Modi in Pune

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AMID reports that both factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) will join the BJP-led governments in Maharashtra and the Centre, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar is set to be the chief guest at an event in Pune where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be conferred with Lokmanya Tilak National Award.

Earlier, Rohit Tilak, great grand-son of Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the vice president of the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust, which organises the award, said Pawar has confirmed that he will preside over the event.

In fact, Pawar later said it was he who helped Tilak to get the prime minister's date for the event.

Modi is being conferred the award in recognition of his "supreme leadership" and for "awakening the feeling of patriotism among citizens".

Meanwhile, Opposition parties hit out at Pawar saying while he is helping the Opposition alliance, I.N.D.I.A, take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he himself is attending as chief guest in a function where Modi will be praised.

"We really failed in understanding the Pawar's politics. Actually. He should drop his decision to attend as chief guest in the event in which Modi will be conferred with Lokmanya Tilak National Award," a senior Congress leader said, adding it is "not a good optics" by Pawar at this juncture.

Interestingly, the NCP faction led by Pawar will join the Congress and social activists in showing the black flag to Modi during his Pune visit over his silence on the violence in Manipur.

EXPRESS READ

Soldier on leave goes missing, search begins

Srinagar: An Army soldier, Javaid Ahmad Wani, on leave has gone missing from his native Kulgam in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the forces launching a massive search and rescue operation, officials said on Sunday. P8

Gruha Jyothi to be rolled out in K'buragi on Aug 5

Shivamogga: The Gruha Jyothi scheme, where 200 units of free power will be provided to households, will be rolled out in Kalaburgi on August 5, said Energy Minister KJ George at Chikkamagaluru on Sunday. P4

This is a year of exciting missions, says ISRO chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that the next year is packed with several "exciting" missions. Another PSLV mission is in the pipeline, along with a Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) mission and a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) coming up later this year, Chairman S Somanath said on Sunday.

He was speaking to the press after the successful launch of PSLV-C56 carrying DS-SAR as the primary satellite, along with six co-passengers launched on Sunday from the launch pad of Sriharikota at 6:30am.

"We will be launching another PSLV mission by August or early September. In the future, PSLVs will be industrialised and owned by different industries," Somanath announced.

He added that Gaganyaan's test vehicle is currently being integrated for an ambitious human spaceflight with three crew members, who will be in space for three days. The SSLV mission is in its third developmental mission and GSLV mission for launching INSAT-3DS is also in progress.

"This year we are packed with activities," the space agency chairman added. P4

ISRO's PSLV-C56 lifts off from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Sunday | PTI

The government came to power only because 135 of us (party MLAs) won the election. They became ministers only because our government came to power. The ministers should know that they did not descend from above

BR Patil, Congress MLA from Aland

Writing letter no crime: Cong MLA Patil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

IF the way Congress senior MLA from Aland BR Patil hit out at the reported "unfair" treatment of party MLAs by some cabinet ministers is any indication, then it is evident that the Congress government is facing a bitter internal feud between party MLAs and ministers.

Patil told *The New Indian Express*, "The government came to power only because 135 of us (party MLAs) won the election. They became ministers only because our government came to power. The ministers should know that they did not descend from above."

Taking a dig at the ministers' conduct with legislators, he said, "If my self-respect is hurt, I will resign from my post and quit. That's how I am going to protest." But he did not mention the names of the ministers he was upset with and said he does not like to comment on it.

On reports that the MLAs tendered an apology for writing the letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah against the cabinet ministers, Patil said he never apologised nor he would do such a thing. "Is writing letters to the CM (against ministers) a crime? I don't think it is a crime. It is our democratic right to write letters. There is democracy prevailing in the party." Patil said he was not aware who were the MLAs who apologised, but he did not.

Recently, Siddaramaiah held a Congress Legislature Party meeting to set the house in order after the party MLAs wrote a letter to him complaining against some cabinet ministers.

Ahead of nominations for WFI poll, Brij Bhushan may meet Amit Shah

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

WITH Monday being the last date to submit nominations for the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) election, the sidelined chief of the body Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh held a meeting with his loyalists at a five-star hotel in New Delhi on Sunday. It is learnt that representatives from 21 state units attended the meeting and pledged their allegiance to Singh, a BJP member of parliament from Kaiserganj, UP.

As per the WFI constitution, two representatives from a state unit are eligible to cast their votes. With 21 units backing him, the election should have been a cakewalk for Singh. However, the UP strongman preferred to play it safe by not revealing the nominations. Also because of the sensitive nature of this election with sexual harrassment charges against Singh, things could be tricky. If insiders are to be believed, Singh had met the Home Minister in this regard and is expected to meet him again. "Singh may meet home minister either at night or in the morning before his faction files the nominations for various posts at the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Bhawan on Monday," sources told this daily.

The sources also claimed that the other faction, which comprises six-seven voters who were included in the electoral college of late, also had a round of talks on Sunday. "They cannot be taken lightly as some of the names were accommodated after extending the deadline of nominations. They could figure as contestants for top poitions," said sources. P11

No more Nandini ghee in Tirupati laddus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ballari

AFTER nearly 50 years, the Tirupati Tirumala Trust (TTD) will not buy ghee from Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) to make its famous laddus.

KMF president Bhima Nayak said here on Sunday that TTD did not approve the price quoted by KMF and has gone ahead with another company to source ghee. The agreement is ending despite TTD having said several times that the laddus taste better because of KMF ghee.

"We demanded a higher price for ghee as the milk procurement price will go up from August 1. But TTD informed us through the e-procurement site that it has picked a company that has quoted the lowest price. KMF ghee has an international market because of its quality. If any company has bid at a low price, I know they will compromise on quality. It is clear, however, that Nandini ghee plays a major role in making laddus tasty," he added.

Tomatoes worth ₹21 lakh shipped from Kolar to Jaipur go missing

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

AS tomato prices keep soaring, over 11 tonnes of the vegetable worth Rs 21 lakh, being transported from Kolar to Jaipur, has gone missing. Kolar SP M Narayan told *The New Indian Express* that a case has been registered with the Kolar town police based on a complaint filed by trader Munireddy.

Munireddy of Sree Venkateshwara Traders told *TNIE* that he and AG Traders had sent 735 crates, with 15 kg each, in a truck to three traders in Jaipur. He said he had purchased each crate of tomato at Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,150 and had loaded the crates on July 27 afternoon.

The driver's number, the vehicle registration number and other details were shared with the Jaipur traders. He and the Jaipur traders were tracking the consignment regularly.

The truck was scheduled to reach Jaipur at 11 pm on July 29. But from late Saturday evening, the driver could not be contacted and even the GPS tracker on the truck did not show any movement, he said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

12% GST slapped on PG rentals, hostel fees

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

PEOPLE staying in paying guest (PGs) accommodations and hostels may soon have to shell out more as 12 per cent GST will be slapped on rent paid for such accommodations and other services separately.

The Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) in Bengaluru ruled on July 13 that hostels are not residential dwelling units and are not exempt from GST.

In an advance ruling sought by Srisai Luxurious Stay LLP, AAR said GST exemption was applicable to accommodation services of charges up to Rs 1,000 per day, provided by hotels, clubs, campsites etc. till July 17, 2022.

"GST on reverse charge will be applicable on the rental to be paid to the landowners by the applicant as the services of the applicant are leviable to GST and thus the applicant has to obtain GST registration," it added. The Bengaluru bench also stated that other services like TV, or washing machine will not be bundled services and hence GST will be charged separately on them. In a similar case by Noida-based VS Institute and Hostel, the Lucknow AAR bench said GST will be applicable on hostel rooms costing less than Rs 1,000 per day.

Sampath Althur, president, Bengaluru PG Owners Association, said, "It is unfair to allow GST to be made applicable on rental housing as the effect of increased cost of rent will trickle down to students and other migrants residing in the city. CONTINUED ON: P5

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 31/07/2023 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Varsha • Masa: Adhika Shravana • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Chaturdasi 2.54 am
Nakshatra: Purvashada 6.23 pm • Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast.

Sunrise 6.05 am
Sunset 6.47 pm
Moonrise 5.41 pm
Moonset 4.10 am

Govt to reimburse bus corporations in 1st week of every month

Ridership up, so are revenues, says official

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

SHAKTI SCHEME

ALMOST two months after the launch of the Shakti scheme that offers free travel to women in non-premium state-run buses, the government has decided to reimburse the bus corporations -- the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC), North West Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) -- in the first week of every month.

A KSRTC official revealed that they will be getting Rs 248.30 crore for June, in the first week of August; and the amount for July will be released in September first week.

After the launch of the Shakti scheme, the average daily ridership of the four bus corporations has soared. The ridership, which was hovering around 84 lakh passengers per day, has crossed one crore after the launch of the scheme. It is not only the women passengers, but the number of men travelling on buses too has increased.

While the state budget had reserved Rs 2,800 crore for the Shakti scheme, the bus corporations were not reimbursed. Even Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had said the bus corporations will not be pushed into financial crisis, and will be reimbursed based on the total ticket value generated by the zero tickets issued to women.

"The government has reserved Rs 2,800 crore for the Shakti scheme in the budget. As the scheme started on June 11, we feel this amount is likely to be sufficient till the end of this financial year," the official said.

Asked if the cash-strapped bus corporations wish to get the amount in advance, the official said, "Only after we submit to the government the cost of the Shakti scheme, they can reimburse it. The ridership has increased, and so has the revenue of the bus corporation. We expected that the scheme will be a hit, but did not expect a response of this scale. This sudden jump is expected, as there will always be a euphoria around such schemes. We are keeping a watch on the number of passengers under the Shakti scheme. With the current number of passengers, on an average, the bus corporations need around Rs 400 crore per month for the scheme."

Ramalinga to have second meet with pvt unions today

ENS @ Bengaluru

AFTER the first meeting with representatives of the private bus, auto and cab operators failed to reach a consensus, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has called a second meeting with them on Monday.

Citing the loss of revenue incurred by them after the rollout of the Shakti scheme, private transport associations had called for a Bengaluru bandh on July 27. However, the stir was put on hold as Reddy, following the first meeting on July 24, assured that all their problems would be addressed. The first meeting where all the unions met together ended up in in-fighting among the private transport unions, since the problems faced by the auto drivers were different from that faced by cab and bus operators. Keeping this in mind, Reddy has called the second meeting this time, individually with each of them. He will be meeting auto drivers and owners from 11 am to 12 pm, followed by cab operators (12 pm to 1 pm), and from 1 pm to 2 pm, he will meet private bus operators.

The major demand of private bus operators is to extend the Shakti scheme to private buses, and that they be paid by the government like how bus corporations are being paid, based on the ticket fare of women passengers. Auto unions have urged the government to pay Rs 10,000 per month to the autos for the alleged loss in their revenues to the Shakti scheme. The meeting is crucial as the private transport unions under the banner – Federation of Karnataka Private Transport Associations -- have given an ultimatum to the government till August 10 to address their concerns, failing which they will go ahead with the protest, which is likely to affect lakhs of passengers who rely on private transport for commute.

People protest against the atrocities on women and violence in Manipur, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Activists protest against Manipur violence

ENS @Bengaluru

MORE than 1,000 people gathered at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in the city to protest against the atrocities being committed against women in Manipur. The protesters called for strict protection of women's rights in the northeastern state. Many activists, civil society groups and citizens participated in the peaceful gathering held on Sunday, wearing black.

Prominent human rights activist and founder of Global Concern of India Brinda Adige said, "We need peace, relief and restorative justice for women of Manipur, and the government needs to act now." She has been quite vocal about the heinous crimes committed against women in the state and also around the country.

The protest was organised by the Women's Commission, the Archdiocese of Bangalore and the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India for Women. A memorandum was also signed by the participants, which will be sent to the President of India, the governor, chairman of the National Commission for Women and district magistrate.

The memorandum read, "We are horrified and anguished by the disturbing silence and apathy of the state machinery meant to protect citizens and enforce laws. Women were stripped, physically and sexually assaulted and gang raped in Manipur." The signatories demanded that the perpetrators of this violence be duly punished.

Hand over common areas to home buyers, builder ordered

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has ordered the builder to transfer the title of the common area to the home allottees, immediately after they form an association. The retention of the title of the common area by the builder, which was subsequently misused to mobilise resources by the promoter, has been a major issue faced by home buyers across the state.

The verdict was delivered by a bench presided over by RERA Chairman H C Kishore Chandra, while hearing a case against Signature Crest residential project developed by Signature Dwelling Private Limited on July 21, filed by Sandeep G W and Jonali Das. The project is in Gonighattapura village in Sarjapur hobli.

Responding to the verdict, Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, convener, Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum, told *TNIE*, "It's a landmark order in the history of RERA Karnataka, where the promoter is asked to transfer common areas to the association of allottees, which the Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum has been stressing for very long." The home buyers need to form a registered association of allottees under the competent authority to take transfer of common areas to their association. "We can use this verdict as a reference point when future cases are fought by home buyers," he said.

It's a landmark order in the history of RERA Karnataka, where the promoter is asked to transfer common areas to the association of allottees, which the Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum has been stressing for very long

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, convener, Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum

Ameya Usgaonkar, a home buyer, billed it "a major, major verdict by RERA". This will put an end to malpractices indulged in by resident associations, like money laundering and diversion of funds if this is adopted across the state, he said. "Also, the builder who transfers the flats in the name of the home buyers, merely hands over the common area without a transfer in title name. Across Bengaluru, it's rampant to see the promoter re-mortaging the documents to obtain unsecured loans from banks and other financial institutions," he added.

Usgaonkar said similar provisions existed under Karnataka Flat Owners' Association (KOFA) for home buyers in the pre-RERA period, but they were not honoured by the promoters or Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

In the specific complaint against the promoter of Signature Crest, the bench also ordered the builder the provide car parking space to the complainant, as per BBMP building bye-laws 2003.

REALITY CHECK

Six months on, evening PO not a crowd puller

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE launch of The Evening Post Office (TEPO) as a separate unit inside the premises of the Museum Road Post Office generated much interest among the public. Six months down the line, it has not received much patronage and is generating meagre revenue for the postal department. This has resulted in shelving of plans to introduce more TEPOs across the city and state.

During a visit to TEPO last Wednesday night, the duo manning the office, postal assistant Vinay C S and Manjunath, who goes by the designation of 'multi-task staffer', were the only ones inside this tastefully decorated office. A postman dropped in from the Railway Mail Service to pick up mail bags. TEPO is open for the public from 1pm to 8.30pm.

Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, S Rajendra Kumar told *TNIE*, "The data for the last six months reveals a total of 3,026 transactions, which works out to an average of 20 transactions per day. The revenue generated per month is around Rs 50,000."

Conceding that the revenue was not high, the CPMG said they plan to sell more (postal related) items at TEPO to draw crowds. "We will be selling rakhis as well as special rakhi envelopes here for upcoming Raksha Bandhan. This is one of the plans we have in mind to boost footfall here. We also plan to utilise social media to create awareness," the CPMG said.

Asked about the initial plan to open up more such TEPOs in Karnataka, Prasad said, "The footfall seen here is not very encouraging. Moreover, we have extended transaction hours for the public at our post offices in the State. So, there is no need as of now to open separate evening post offices."

Vinay, who mans the counter, says, "The few visitors who drop in are delighted that such a service functions till late night. I think most people are not aware of its existence and more publicity is required."

LALBAGH SHOW

Over 7 lakh flowers to go into Vidhana Soudha replica

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

WITH the Independence Day Flower Show at Lalbagh round the corner, preparations for it are already under way. Over 10 lakh flowers will be used to build the replicas of Vidhana Soudha and Shivapura Sathyagraha Soudha for the show.

With the Horticulture Department getting ready for its 214th Lalbagh Flower Show, about 50 workers have been deployed day and night to work on installations for the central theme -- 'Kengal Hanumantaiah', the former chief minister credited with building Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, and the Shivapura Sathyagraha Soudha.

According to Joint Director of Lalbagh, Dr M Jagadeesha, as a mark or respect to the former CM and his contribution, a replica of Vidhana Soudha is being built at the Glass House. "Two lakh chrysanthemums and 5.2 lakh roses will be used to make the Vidhana Soudha replica and 3 lakh chrysanthemums will be used to make the Shivapura Sathyagraha Soudha," said Jagadeesha.

He further added that this time, the flower show will be held for 12 days, starting from August 4. Six days later, about 3.6 lakh flowers used for the Vidhana Soudha replica will replaced by fresh flowers. Similarly, 1.75 lakh chrysanthemums used for the Shivapura Sathyagraha Soudha will be replaced with fresh flowers on August 10.

Preparations under way for the Independence Day Flower Show, at Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Sunday | CHETAN M G

Apart from this theme, a small replica of gold blocks and wooden and iron cast boxes from Bharat Gold Mines Limited from Kolar Gold Fields will be put up, as it was Hanumantaiah who gave shape to the mine area after the British exited from India in 1947.

Meanhile, the flowers and plants for the show are being sourced from the Nilgiris, Pune, and Thiruvananthapuram and others parts of Kerala.

There are 13 committees responsible for the show. Elaborate security arrangements will be made, with police, home guards and KSRP platoons being deployed. Ample parking arrangements will be made in the surroundings of Lalbagh. For the 12-day show, the government has allocated Rs 2.5 crore.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

31ST July : There's a famous song in which the chorus runs 'I don't like Mondays'. How negative! Monday is a great day. For a start, it's ruled by the Moon, planet of poetry and emotional highs and lows. It's all part of life's rich tapestry so what can I say but 'have a good start to the week'!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
If you're in any way uncertain about your strategy or prospects, it may be advisable to hold your horses over a major move or upheaval until next week. Only if you are more than one hundred percent confident should you initiate adventurous new enterprises.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's important to consider the week as a whole and realise that this is a moment to concentrate on spiritual and mystical interests. It is also extremely important to avoid all gossip and false rumours. For some reason certain people seem anxious to mislead. Don't listen to them.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Generally, positive planetary alignments should help you to press ahead with a favourite ambition, no matter how small. Today, you have a valuable opportunity to resolve legal matters, answer ethical questions or arrange travel plans. There might also be a possibility of studying a new interest.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Pay your dues, both emotionally and financially. Also, if anyone owes you a debt, whether payable in cash or kind, now is the time to call them to account. Romantic influences continue on a broadly favourable course, perhaps because a friend seems ready to please.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It's a day for partnership, and hence for sharing, but a week for self-exploration, and so for pursuing your own goals regardless of what other people say or do. You may therefore be performing a careful balancing act today. I'm sure you'll manage!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Always wait, look, listen and learn. This, you see, is nothing if not a time for patience, no matter that you do quite rightly feel a little frustrated or resentful at being passed over a long time ago. If life has taught you anything, it's that there's always a second chance. You just have to keep your eyes open.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The scales might fall from your eyes. Even if you do discover that someone close is not a paragon of virtue, this is going to be a time when you will have to realise that you should have stood on your own two feet, anyway. Then you would never have risked disappointment, would you?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
There is no way for you to predict or gauge how either home or career matters will develop. Everything depends on your approach which, while being business like, should also be spontaneous and flexible. You may accept relations' little ups and downs, and offer them all the support they need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
To say that you should be able to turn almost any situation to your advantage may sound a little exaggerated at present, but that's because you're not yet aware of the broader pattern. By the end of the week you'll be cruising along with the world at your feet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Although this is a day to focus on finances, there is little in your chart to indicate important developments. It may therefore be no more than a case of keeping an eye open for bargains, but always with due regard for your long-term security. After all, you don't want to squander your assets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The ball definitely appears to be in your court today. You should therefore be able to put your foot down at home but, with such power comes the responsibility to use your advantages wisely. In other words, it's a day for good deeds! And whatever you do, I hope you'll be appreciated.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Although your stars are definitely powerful, you should steel yourself for a clash of temperament. That way, when someone blows up over the next few days, you'll be in a perfect position to help them through. Your innate wisdom will be much in evidence.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

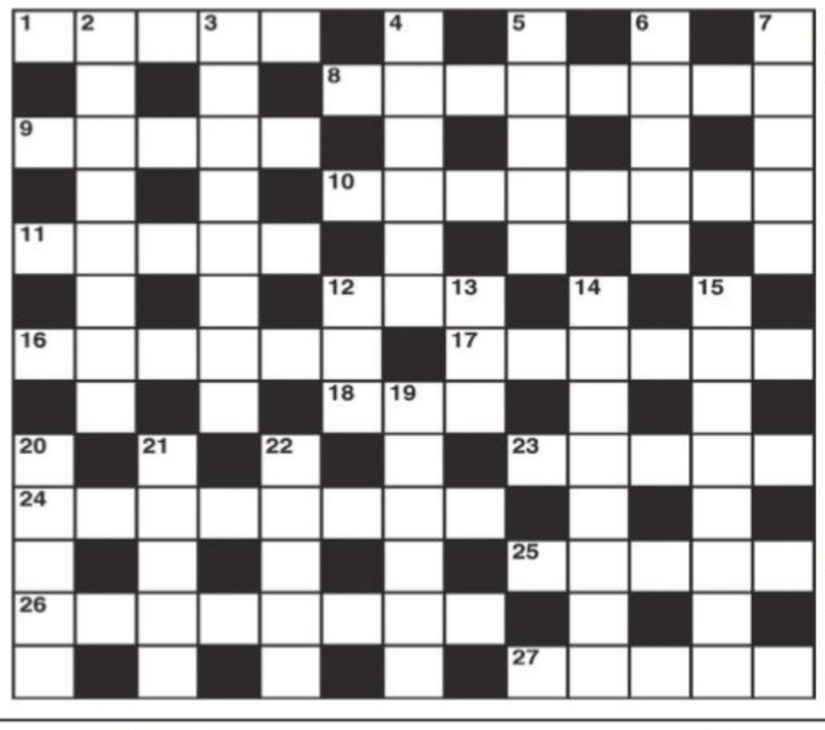
					1		7	
				5			1	
				4	7	3		9
5	2						9	4
	8		9		5		2	
6	9						8	7
3		9	2	1				
	7			8				
	6		5					

6	3	4	2	7	5	9	8	1
1	9	2	4	8	6	7	3	5
5	8	7	1	9	3	4	2	6
9	6	1	8	3	7	5	4	2
7	2	3	5	6	4	1	9	8
4	5	8	9	1	2	3	6	7
8	7	5	6	4	9	2	1	3
3	1	9	7	2	8	6	5	4
2	4	6	3	5	1	8	7	9

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 How many a crazy lady falls in love? (5)
8 Giving a ruling about two gin cocktails (8)
9 Getting a horse into a ship poses difficulties (5)
10 A decreasing asset in a boring club (8)
11 Excellent form of beef (5)
12 Have to concede (3)
16 Battle suit (6)
17 Sailor on the way overseas (6)
18 Leave the land (3)
23 Legally, it's relative (2-3)
24 Wool gatherer? (8)
25 Report of an explosive nature (5)
26 Held back, being shy (8)
27 A poem that could shock? (5)

DOWN

2 Make it known the girl's gained little weight (8)
3 Support for those who can't afford to take action (5,3)
4 Colour that would run? (6)
5 An entrance that may impress in the ring (5)
6 Untrue statement about character (5)
7 A male delegate? (5)
12 Our first cardinal (3)
13 Catch in possession of cannabis (3)
14 Open nothing up for him (8)
15 Fool raced around, considerably vexed (8)
19 Arrested but remained reserved (6)
20 Much interest is taken in this practice (5)
21 Lead a request for silence on the meadow (5)
22 It's not required to be merciful (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Wages of sin, 6 Toll, 10 Arena, 11 Separates, 12 Underpin, 13 Finis, 15 Evident, 17 Edifice, 19 Unhooks, 21 Tripper, 22 Yahoo, 24 Lapidary, 27 Pizzicato, 28 Alibi, 29 Tale, 30 Martial law.

Down: 1 Wean, 2 Greenwich, 3 Stave, 4 Fussspot, 5 Impinge, 7 Often, 8 Loses heart, 9 Graffiti, 14 Beauty spot, 16 Economic, 18 Impartial, 20 Sultana, 21 Taproot, 23 Hazel, 25 Diana, 26 View.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

RUDGO

UCNHM

EEEMGR

STULES

I don't know how to describe it.
That is enormous!
GENERAL SHERMAN
6/2
THE 275-FOOT-TALL SEQUOIA WITH A TRUNK MEASURING 36 FEET IN DIAMETER WAS ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____-_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SILKY TWILL SPRUCE THINLY
Answer: The kids just bought giant lollipops and planned to finish them — LICKETY-SPLIT

A youth was electrocuted after he accidentally came in contact with a high tension wire while attempting to catch crabs near Kulamwada in Khanapur taluk, Belagavi district, on Sunday evening. The deceased has been identified as Maruti Govindappa Waddar, a resident of Antroli village in Haliyal taluk

TIME TO BURNISH BRAND BENGALURU

'The city's image has been dented by traffic congestion, corruption and other factors, needs an uplift, new ideas and an action plan'

S LALITHA & MOHAMMED YACOOB

BENGALURU'S laid-back image of a Pensioners' Paradise is now a thing of the past. The last three decades have transformed it into the most happening city in India. Its salubrious climate, multicultural, multilingual environment, pub culture and cosmopolitan cuisine have ensured that the city has the capacity to both surprise and delight a person who drops anchor here.

Brand Bengaluru, the pet project of Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar, aims at shoring up the city's image. A campaign in this connection, launched on June 21 to seek public opinion, has received 70,000 suggestions so far.

What is the present image of Bengaluru, and what really needs to be done to improve it? Experts on civic and transportation issues, as well as those brimming with a passion for the city, shared their views with The New Indian Express.

Bengaluru is a global brand for its high-quality human capital and its IT/BT companies, remarks T V Mohandas Pai, chairman, Aarin Capital Partners. "It has more than 100,000 Ph.Ds, pays the second highest quantum of individual income-tax, has more than 40,000 IT companies, including 15,000 startups, nearly 50 unicorns and $65 billion of capital coming in through ventures and startups," he lists.

Bengaluru contributes more than 60 per cent of Karnataka's GDP and the lion's share of taxes of the state, Pai specifies. "However, Brand Bengaluru has been damaged in the last three or four years and needs to be restored," he stresses emphatically.

The new Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar must produce a clear action plan for the next six months to improve living conditions for its residents, Pai says. "His priorities should be a major campaign to clean up the streets of Bengaluru to make it a cleaner city within two to three months, as well as restore footpaths to make it a pedestrian-friendly city," he suggests.

Public transport is the only solution to decongest Bengaluru, which has 1.1 crore vehicles at present, including 25 lakh cars and 55 lakh two-wheelers. "Increase the BMTC bus fleet to 15,000 by 2025 and change the entire fleet to electric vehicle buses," he said.

Speeding up the Suburban Rail Project, extending Namma Metro by 250-300km at the earliest, and building the Peripheral Ring Road are urgently required.

"Petty corruption is hurting people. Corruption in the BDA, BBMP and in government departments where public goes for registration of property or vehicles has to be eliminated," the Padma Shri awardee stated. The minister also needs to interact with citizens every two or three months, and present a regular progress report, he added.

BIG PICTURE

Traffic congestion mars brand

WRI India fellow and citizen activist Srinivas Alavilli feels traffic congestion has dented Brand Bengaluru globally, and its brand value can be boosted by focusing on this aspect. "The traffic congestion that came back in full force post the pandemic is causing loss of productivity and is increasing stress levels. Luckily, we have the Metro reaching Whitefield next month and Electronics City at the end of the year. Our focus should be to wean away daily commuters from their personal vehicles and make them utilise public transport. When large numbers of commuters do so, it will make a big difference."

Augmentation of the BMTC bus fleet, improvement of last-mile connectivity deploying buses and autos, and taking steps to make cycling around the city safer, are the need of the hour, he suggests."Walking must be made a pleasure in Garden City," Alavilli adds.

Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry president B V Gopal Reddy said the city has all the right policies in place but lags when it comes to implementation. "For instance, a fantastic Electric Vehicle policy is in place, but is not effectively implemented," he said. There need to be strict deadlines (like three or four years) for completion of all projects. "The Satellite Ring Road and Peripheral Ring Road are to be completed by 2025 to decongest traffic in the city, and the deadline must be met. The Suburban Rail Project has to be implemented with strict deadlines," Reddy said.

B'luru Habba, the beginning

Prashanth Prakash and Naresh Narasimhan, urban experts and members of the 'Vibrant Brand Bengaluru' committee, say multiple changes will be effected to create a new image for the city.

Bengaluru Habba, to be held from December 1 to 10, will mark the beginning of the image building process. "Bengaluru is known for its technical knowhow. There is much focus on environment and healthcare, so a holistic approach is being considered for 'Brand Bengaluru'. This will bring communities and cultures together. The idea is to engage more people to participate in the city's events and make people take pride in Bengaluru. This way, our goal for Vibrant Bengaluru will be achieved," said Prakash, chairman, Unboxing Bengaluru.

The focus will be on utilising public places, like space below flyovers, medians and junctions. "Seeing is believing. When some changes are done at these spots and they are made to look beautiful just by some canvas, greenery, artwork and chairs for the public to use, it can make a huge difference," stressed Prakash.

In achieving the goals for a vibrant Brand Bengaluru, the committee and minister face an uphill task."The biggest challenge is to bring about a combination of psychological changes among people towards public transport, and also putting an effective public transport system in place.

The dates have been chosen as the Tech Summit would conclude and Bengaluru Lit Fest will also take place on December 2 and 3. Ten days will be used to ensure people get a 'sense of pride' and 'ownership' among the 60-plus year migrant population, who have made Bengaluru their home for the past 15 to 20 years," said Naresh Narasimhan, architect and urban designer.

Brand guru Harish Bijoor says, "The brand is a thought. A thought that lives in people's minds. A thought that lives in the minds of people who live within Bengaluru, and equally in the minds of those who don't as well. Both thoughts are images and realities. Images and realities that make for the experience and impression of Bengaluru. This can be positive and equally negative. Correcting the negatives and consolidating the positives are the key goals of Project Brand Bengaluru. Both can be attempted with vigour. I do believe we need to have a Brand Bengaluru war room in Vidhana Soudha. This BB war room needs to ideate, implement and evaluate actions on the ground in a live every-day and every-moment manner."

(Inputs by Divya Cutinho/ Mangaluru; Tushar A Majukar/Belagavi, BK Lakshmikantha/ Mysuru)

How can other cities steer clear of the mistakes B'galuru made as it developed?

MANGALURU Mangaluru, similar to Bengaluru, is experiencing rapid growth and must proactively plan to avert infrastructural challenges. Among the various measures proposed is a focus on sustainable development. Preserve natural resources, promote eco-friendly practices, green architecture, and encourage sustainable transport to avoid ecological damage and loss of green spaces.

Ganesh Kamath, president, Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI)

The authorities must complete the planned Mangala Cornish project and build a Metro train between Mangalore University area and Manipal. There is a need to redesign and rebuild Kottara Chowki and Nanthur circles as they cause traffic bottlenecks. Road connectivity between Mangaluru and Bengaluru should be improved so that the cities could be covered within 4 hours, instead of the present 7-8 hours.

Praveen Kumar Kalbhavi, chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mangaluru

BELAGAVI Belagavi city needs a structured development plan for Belagavi city. A micro-level master plan, which identifies the problem and proposes not only to solve the existing problems, but also meet future needs during the plan period for Belagavi, should be in place.

RS Nayak, retired Superintendent Engineer, Belagavi City Corporation

MYSURU To avoid Mysuru becoming a Bengaluru in future, public representatives must consider protecting nature, while initiating development programmes. Lakes should be protected from encroachment, trees should be protected when widening roads, restrictions need to be in place against constructing high-rise buildings and people should be encouraged to use public transport instead of private vehicles.

Parashuram Gowda, founder, Parisara Balaga, and civic expert

EXPRESS READ

Burglars decamp with valuables worth ₹15 lakh

BENGALURU: Miscreants broke into the house of an engineer and decamped with valuables worth Rs 15 lakh in Manjunatha Nagar in Bagalagunte police station limits.

The incident took place in the house belonging to Vinayak Shinde, who works as an engineer at a factory located in Peenya Industrial Area. The police said Shinde had gone to work while his wife had gone to her parent's house on Friday when miscreants gained entry into the house by breaking the window grills. The burglary came to light when Shindhe returned home in the evening. "The burglars have decamped with 300 grams of gold jewels and about 500 grams of silver articles worth around Rs 15 lakh. We have registered a case and are on the lookout for the accused," the police added. **ENS**

Alcoholic kills kin after told to mend his ways

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 32-year-old alcohol addict, who had come to the city from Jharkhand for work, allegedly murdered his relative for advising him to mend his ways or return to his hometown. The incident took place in Kumbalagod police station limits. The deceased has been identified as Sulendar Oraon, who hailed from Gumla district in Jharkhand. The police have arrested the accused, Fagu Oraon.

The police said Sulendar and his wife were working at a construction site near St. Benedict School in Anchepalya of Kengeri hobli for the last four months. Sulendar asked his wife's Fagu, who was in Jharkhand, to come and work with him and the latter came to the city on Thursday morning. The same evening, he consumed alcohol and damaged a vehicle by pelting a stone and had fought with the vehicle owner. "Sulendar came to know about it and abused Fagu for his behaviour and asked him to mend his ways or return to Jharkhand. On Friday afternoon, Fagu picked up a fight with Sulendar over the issue and attacked him with an iron pipe for insulting him in front of others the last evening. Other workers stopped him and rushed Sulendar to hospital, where he died," the police said.

IISc convocation today; gold medals for 53 students

BENGALURU: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is set to hold its convocation on Monday. The convocation will be held at the J N Tata Auditorium, where Amitabh Chaudhry, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Bank, will be the chief guest and Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman of Axilor Ventures and Co-founder of Infosys, will be the guest of honour. A total of 848 degrees will be conferred, including 360 research degrees, 369 postgraduate degrees, and 119 undergraduate degrees. As many as 53 students will be awarded gold medals for excellence in academics. The institute offers PhD and integrated PhD programmes, Master's programmes including MTech, MDes, MMgmt, and a BTech in Mathematics and Computing, and a four-year BSc research programme. **ENS**

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name : Sri.Ravi Prakash Shastry
E-mail ID: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 9535327281
Landline No.(office): 080-25943663

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH
3rd Floor, Building No. 11/90,
Opp. Trustwell Hospital, Near Old Shivaji Theatre
J C Road, Bengaluru - 560002
Tel: 25943663, 25943664
Email: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

Appendix – IV-A
[See Proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Properties on 18.08.2023

E-auction SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO Rule 8(6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **18.08.2023** for recovery of **Rs.70,99,776/-** (Rupees Seventy Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six only) as on 26.07.2023+ interest + expenses and costs, due to State Bank of India, Secured creditor **Smt. Babita** W/o. Adithya.S (Borrower). The reserve price, earnest money deposit and bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under:-

Property No.	Reserve Price (below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount
1	Rs. 41,00,000/-	Rs. 4,10,000/-	Rs. 40,000.00

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Tender No: SBI/SARB/926

Property No. 1– (Title deed holder: Smt.Babita)

All that piece and parcel of 3 Bed room residential apartment bearing No. 217, situated in the first floor measuring 1295 square feet, super built up area with vitrified titles flooring, one covered car parking place, part of the multistoried residential apartment known as "RADIANT SPENCER" and bounded on East by: Open Space, West by: Corridor Space, North by: Flat No.215 and South by: Flat No.219, with 518 sq feet of undivided share, right, title interest and ownership, in the land comprised in Three converted lands i.e., (i) land measuring 0 Acre-12 guntas in Sy. No. 51/2, (ii) Land measuring 0 Acre-12 guantas in Sy.No. 51/4 and (iii) land measuring 0 Acre -13 guntas in Sy. No. 79 along with 0 Acre-09.12 guntas converted for park in all measuring 01 acre 6.12 guntas (vide official memorandum bearing No. ALN (A) (A) SR.172/2011-12 issued by the deputy commissioner Bengaluru district) of Kammasandra Village Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, presently assessed for taxes with Hebbagodi Panchayath Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk and bounded on East by: Property bearing Sy.No.51/1 and remaining land in Sy.No.79, West by: Property bearing Sy.No.80, 51/1 and 51/3, North by: Road and Property bearing Sy.No.51/5 and South by: Road.

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.

Date : 27.07.2023
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
SARB, Bengaluru

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

ULSOOR Branch
No: 18, Cambridge Road,
ULSOOR, Pin – 560008,
Bengaluru, Ph: 9483530791
e-mail: cb0791@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

NOTICE TO BORROWER/ GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank,** Ulsoor Branch, Bengaluru under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2)of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Borrower: 1.Mr. Yousuf S., S/o Subbayakatte Abdulla, Falah Manzil Double Gate, P O Kayyar Bekoor Kayyaru, Kasaragod, 671322, **2.Shaji Kacheri Kuniyil (Guarantor),** S/o Late Krishnan, 27 Krishna Shree Nilaya, Hoshali Main Road 1st Cross, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560091.

Schedule A : [Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Sl. No	Loan Number	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1.	0791629000013	Canara Home Loan plus	20.05.2020	Rs. 1,00,000.00
2.	0791629000025	Canara Home Loan plus	30.06.2021	Rs. 5,00,000.00
3.	0791662000003	Housing Loan NRIs	20.11.2019	Rs. 2,49,00,000.00

Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower as proprietor/promoter

Sl. No	Loan Number	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1.	0791768000064	Loan to MSME	25.10.2019	Rs. 10,00,000.00
2.	0791768000072	Loan to MSME	20.12.2019	Rs. 50,00,000.00
3.	170000676103	Loan to MSME	01.09.2021	Rs. 23,00,000.00

Total Liability as on 20.06.2023 : **Rs 3,70,29,915.38** + interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

DETAILS OF SECURITY ASSETS :

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: All that part and parcel of immovable property bearing New Municipal No.44 old Municipal No.2428, PID No. 6-21-44, which measuring East to West 95 ft & North to South 100 ft. totally measuring 9500 Sft. Situated at Coconut Avenue Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore and bounded on: **East by** : Coconut Avenue Road, **West by:** Guruswamy Mudaliar House, **North by:** 7th Cross Road, **South by:** Conservancy Lane

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 635 Sft. Undivided right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY: Flat bearing No.02, in Ground Floor, constructed over the schedule 'A' property contains 3 Bed Rooms, with One Car parking bearing No.02 & the super Built Up Area measuring 2855 Sft. of the Apartment known as **"DS MAX SWISS CASTLE"** together with common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircase & other areas for common use.

Name of the Title deed holder: Mr. Yousuf S S/o Subbayakatte Abdulla

Date of NPA: 29.05.2023 Demand Notice Date:20.06.2023

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on various dates mentioned as above. The Bank issued Registered notice to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Place : Bangalore Sd/- Authorised Officer
Date : 26.07.2023 Canara Bank

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SRIMATHA MAHILA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA

No.403/803, 8th Main Road, 10th Cross, Shastrinagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 028. Ph: 080 26762583 / 26762584 / 9449885549

POSSESSION NOTICE [RULE –8 (1)](FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **SRIMATHA MAHILA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA**, Bangalore under the Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with (rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice date calling upon the Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors . To repay the amount mentioned in the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on below mentioned dates.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of **SRIMATHA MAHILA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA** Bangalore, for an amount Interest and other Charges mentioned below.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor / Guarantors **Smt. GEETHA RANI V.A, W/o Sri. ADINARAYANA V.B and Sri. ADINARAYANA V. B, S/o Sri. BETTAPPA SETTY VYAMALI,** both residing at # 02, 8th Cross, Chinnayana Palya, Adugodi, Bangalore - 560030. The Surety **1) Sri. KARTHIK V.A, S/o Sri. ADINARAYANA V.B,** # 02, 8th Cross, Chinnayana Palya, Adugodi, Bangalore -560030. **2) Sri. PRABHAKAR, S/o MUNIKRISHNA,** # 73, 17th Cross, Chinnayana Palya, Adugodi, Bangalore 560030.

Total amount Mentioned in the Notice : **Rs.22, 62,172/-** (Rupees Twenty two lakhs sixty two thousand one hundred and seventy two Only) as on **18/07/2023** plus interest from **19/07/2023** together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc., till the date of realization.

Demand Notice Dated: 18-01-2023 **Possession Notice Dated: 18-07-2023.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that the piece and parcel of the House Property Municipal No- 2, Old site no-27, 8th Cross, Chinnayana Palya, Ward No-62, Hombegowda Nagar, PID NO 62-62-2, Bengaluru. Measuring EAST TO WEST 30 FEET AND NORTH TO SOUTH 40 FEET, Total 1200 Sft, Bounded on: East By : Site No. 28 , West by : Site No. 26 , North By: Site No. 24 And South By: Road.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 18-07-2023

Sd/-
Authorised officer
Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

Repco Home Finance

REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED

BANASHANKARI BRANCH: 3494-95, First Floor, Jana Plaza, 9 th Main, Kaveri Nagar Main Rd., Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560 070

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Properties Mortgaged to Repco Home Finance Ltd. Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Whereas **Borrower: Mr.N.Raghupathy,** S/o, Mr.Narayanaswamy, Co-Borrower: Mrs.C.K.Pushpa, W/o, Mr.N.Raghupathy, have borrowed money from **Repco Home Finance Limited, Banashankari Branch** (Now account transferred to ARB Bangalore) against the mortgage of the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder, the company has issued a Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 on 08-02-2019 calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being vide **Loan Account No.2581890000063** being **Rs.15,17,852/-** on **08-02-2019** together with further interest, costs and expenses within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

Whereas the **Borrower & Co-Borrowers** having failed to pay the amount due to the Company as called for in the said demand notice, the Company has taken possession of the secured asset more fully described in the schedule hereunder on **30-11-2020** under Section 13 (4) of the Act.

Whereas the borrowers having failed to pay the dues in full, the secured creditor, Repco Home Finance Limited has decided to sell the under mentioned secured asset in **"As is where is condition"** and **"As is what is condition"** under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for realization of the debts dues to the company. The dues of the borrower being vide **Loan Account No.2581890000063** being **Rs.31,59,771/-** as on **15-07-2023.**

**Date / Time of E - Auction : 31-08-2023, Time : 11.00 a.m - 12.00 p.m.
With unlimited auto extension of 5 minutes**

Last Date & Time for submitting E-Tenders : 30-08-2023, 04.00 P.M

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

All that Piece and Parcel of Property bearing Site No.292, formed in the Land Asst No.46, Situated at Andrahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now Within the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore Measuring East to West: 30 ft; North to South: 40 ft; totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft., and bounded on the: East by : Site No.291, West by : Site No.293, North by : Others Property, South by : Road.

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.32,40,000 ; EMD (10% of Reserve Price) :Rs. 3,24,000;

Minimum Bid Increment Amount : Rs.50,000/-

For E-Auction procedure, please contact M/s. C1 India, Mr.Prabhakar –7418281709.

For inspection of the property the intending bidders may contact the Branch Head, Repco Home Finance Limited, ARB Bangalore Branch, on all working days between 10 A.M to 5 P.M. Contact Nos.080-41233109 & 98868-78838

Date: 20-07-2023

**Authorised Officer,
Repco Home Finance Limited**

Two bikers, who were performing stunts, were seriously injured after they lost control of the vehicle and crashed into an SUV in Maddur taluk in Mandya district on Sunday. The incident happened when the driver of the car, which was travelling towards Bengaluru slowed the vehicle, near a speed breaker on the service road near the Shimsha river

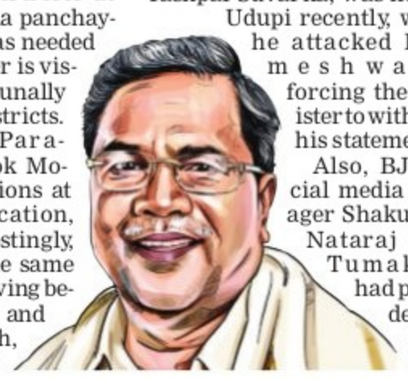
Ahead of his visit to coast, CM talks to HM, DG&IGP

Assumes significance in backdrop of Udupi college voyeurism case

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah, who is scheduled to visit Udupi on Tuesday, got a briefing from Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara and DG&IGP Alok Mohan on Sunday on the voyeurism case, in which some girls allegedly filmed their college mates in the washroom at a Udupi college that has triggered a controversy.

Siddaramaiah will also visit rain-affected areas and review the overall progress of Udupi and Mangaluru districts at their respective zilla panchayats. The briefing was needed as the chief minister is visiting the two communally sensitive coastal districts. Siddaramaiah, Parameshwara and Alok Mohan held deliberations at an undisclosed location, sources said. Interestingly, the trio boarded the same car and went off leaving behind their convoys and escorts. Over brunch, they discussed the steps that needed to be taken as opposition BJP has been going after the government over the voyeurism incident. The BJP has alleged that the government is trying to appease the accused girls as they are from the minority community.



Parameshwara has tried to contain the situation saying it was only a childish prank by youngsters and no communal or political colour should be given to it. But it gave ammunition to BJP to attack the government. A protest, led by MLA Yashpal Suvarna, was held in Udupi recently, where he attacked Parameshwara, forcing the minister to withdraw his statement.

Also, BJP social media manager Shakuntala Nataraj from Tumakuru had posted derogatory comments on Twitter, alleging that the government is not taking the issue seriously. She took the names of Siddaramaiah's wife and daughter-in-law following which the police had arrested her. She apologised for her tweet and came out on bail.

BJP hyping Udupi case to hide Centre's failure over Manipur, says DCC

MANGALURU: Dakshina Kannada District Congress Committee chief K Harish Kumar alleged that the "BJP leaders are sensationalising the Udupi voyeurism case to divert people's attention from the Centre's failure to stop Manipur violence." He said that since the dignity of girls was involved in the matter, the case should have been probed secretly. But BJP leaders are using the case to create unrest in the society, he alleged. Former MLC Ivan D'Souza accused Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje and other BJP leaders of taking a communal turn regarding issues to reap political dividend.

Siddu to meet ministers on SCP/TSP funds

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will hold a meeting with his ministers belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities on Monday to frame rules concerning utilisation of Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) funds. In his budget, the CM had promised to do away with Section 7 (D) of the Karnataka Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act 2013, to ensure that the funds are utilised exclusively for the communities and not diverted towards other development works. RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge called on Siddaramaiah and conveyed his take on the issue as he will not be attending the meeting on Monday as he will be accompanying Industries Minister MB Patil to Chennai to sign an MoU with an iPhone manufacturing company that showed interest to invest in Karnataka, sources said. **ENS**

Bommai takes on govt over flood aid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

FORMER chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday hit out at the Karnataka government over its handling of the rain and flood situation in the state.

Speaking to reporters here at Sambra airport in Belagavi, the former CM said that the government was not serious about the issue. "Hundreds of houses have collapsed in the state owing to heavy rain. Many cattle have also died. Eleven districts are facing flood-like situations. Remaining districts are witnessing drought. Other than conducting video conferences, the CM has not taken any concrete measure to mitigate the problems faced by the people," Bommai said, adding that Rs 10,000 each should be given as compensation to those whose houses have suffered damage, and Rs 5 lakh each to those whose houses have been damaged completely — similar to what the previous BJP government paid. "But nothing has been done. A primary survey on crop loss and cattle deaths is yet to be undertaken. The government is not bothered about rain damage. Not a single minister has visited the flood-affected areas. Similarly, seeds and fertilizers have not been distributed to farmers in the drought-affected regions to take up alternative crops," he said. He said those in power were only indulging in politics and trying to save their position. "The government is engaged in transfer business," he alleged.

Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai addresses the media outside Belagavi airport on Sunday | EXPRESS

Bommai also alleged that the government in the state was supporting anti-social elements. "The law and order has collapsed completely. Attacks on women and the poor, murders of police officers, and attacks by police on innocent people are on the rise," he said.

On BJP's preparations to face the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Bommai said, "District-wise meetings of party workers will soon commence. The state president of the BJP will be appointed soon."

GRUHA JYOTHI TO BE ROLLED OUT IN K'BURAGI ON AUGUST 5

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

THE Gruha Jyothi scheme, where 200 units of free power will be provided to households, will be rolled out in Kalaburgi on August 5, said Energy Minister KJ George at Chikkamagaluru on Sunday.

The beneficiaries will not have to pay for electricity consumed from July 1 under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, one of the five guarantees promised by Congress ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls.

George said that over 1.4 crore consumers have already applied for the benefit. Acknowledging that a few beneficiaries were charged for their electricity usage in July, he said that those who have already paid would receive refunds. Any outstanding arrears will be duly adjusted, and there will be no charge for units used from July 1. The meter reading and calculation process for eligible consumers commenced on July 1, he clarified.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge will be present for the inauguration, he said. To extend the scheme's coverage to a larger population, the government also announced that the billing cycle for FY2022-23 will be based on an average of the last 10 months' consumption, with an additional 10% subsidy granted for those using up to 200 units. However, for consumers exceeding the 200-unit threshold, they will be required to pay their bills as usual.

Not an aspirant for state prez role, says Ravi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A day after being dropped as national general secretary during a reshuffle, senior BJP leader CT Ravi on Sunday said he is not an aspirant for the post of Karnataka state president.

Ravi told reporters that the president's role comes with a lot of responsibility. "I am not an aspirant. Party leaders and the high command will decide about it," he added.

Asked why he was divested of his national role, Ravi said power is not permanent. "I started working as booth-level president 35 years ago. I have worked in various posts given by the party and played many roles in my political career. I was national general secretary for two years and 10 months. Now I am not in that post, but I will work as an ordinary party worker," he said.

Ravi is expected to meet the party high command on August 2 in New Delhi. On that day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also be meeting MPs from Karnataka.

A Vokkaliga leader, Ravi lost the assembly election from Chikkamagaluru this year, but the buzz now is that he will be given the state president's post.

'Singapore plans more missions with ISRO'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE PSLV-C56 mission is ISRO's fourth dedicated launch on a commercial basis, and is expecting more opportunities in the near future.

All about PSLV

"The PSLV fourth stage, which is currently in the orbit of the satellite at 535km, launched at a 5-degree inclination, will be brought back to a lower orbit of 300km with an intent to have a lower lifespan spent in space," the ISRO chairman added. This is being done with the agenda to reduce space debris by making "conscious efforts" and will be done in a controlled manner, said Somanath.

The DS-SAR satellite is developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering, and will be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore. ST Engineering will use it for multimodal and higher responsiveness imagery and geospatial services for their commercial customers. ISRO also announced that the Government of Singapore plans to have many more missions with the space agency in future.

JUMBO RAID

A herd of elephants raids a sugarcane field in Hampapura village near Ramanahalli in Srirangapatna taluk, Mandya district, on Sunday. It is believed that the jumbos might have come from Ramanagara travelling nearly 80 km crossing Sathanuru and other major towns | UDAYASHANKAR S

After tweet complaint, minister helps NRI bizman set up firm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

INDUSTRIES Minister MB Patil has extended help on behalf of the state government to a an NRI who was struggling to register a company in Bengaluru. NRI Brij Singh from the AI industry in the US, had tweeted about a delay in registering a company.

In his tweet, Singh said that he loves Bengaluru / India. "Spent two months just to try to register a co in India and it's still not done. Problem-solution feedback loop from potential customers, Investors and even fellow founders is at a different level. Time may be coming for me to move back to the US. And I say this with a heavy heart," he had tweeted.

Minister Patil immediately responded and said he was sorry to hear about Singh's problem. "Company formation is usually done by CAs and shouldn't take more than 15-20 days, to get it cleared by RoC (which falls under the central government, and is the same for all states). However if you have any issues I'd be happy to meet personally and get it sorted," Patil had tweeted back.

However, Singh responded with, "Really appreciate your reach out Sir, gives a lot of confidence to us. Things have started moving and I will reach out to your team if need arise. Thank you again for your support." The conversation had received a mixed response from both sides – many had appreciated the minister's response, while some were critical of the delay.

Honnavar port project, a victim of parasitic system, alleges minister

BANSY KALAPPA
@ Bengaluru

MINISTER for Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Mankal Subba Vaidya has blamed the Centre for creating hurdles in getting the clearance for projects in the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) despite it announcing certain relaxation in rules.

He said that in his own constituency, a port project launched by Honnavar Port Pvt Ltd (HPPL) has been hanging fire for over 11 years and an investor who has spent over Rs 150 crore is still struggling, with little respite from the "parasitic governmental and administrative systems".

The state government had leased the port land to develop a barge and vessel loading facility to the North Canara Seaports-GVPREL consortium, which is Honnavar Port Pvt Ltd for 30 years. But the port land had already been occupied by illegal encroachers and fish dryers. After an order by the Dharward bench of the Karnataka High Court, the encroachers were evicted by 2016-end and HPPL took possession of the land.

But the Ports Department, meanwhile, had issued notices to HPPL demanding the rent for the leased land that had squatters. The work stalled in 2019 and 2020 because of Covid. In February 2021, local residents, through Hasimeenu Vyaparastara Sangha, filed a public interest litigation before the Karnataka High Court, challenging the proposed construction of the port, saying it is a turtle nesting ground, the houses would be demolished, environment would be harmed and fishing activities would be affected. By November 2021, the case was disposed of.

In the meantime, local residents disturbed the movement of vehicles/staff going in and out of the port site and manhandled them. Despite a situation like this, there was no support from the authorities to HPPL, the minister alleged.

In July 2022, the local fisherwomen filed a case before the National Green Tribunal, Chennai against the construction of a four-lane, 4 km road, alleging a violation of CRZ rules in CRZ III, CRZ -1A and 1B. Now, the validity of the project is going to expire. Despite HPPL seeking an extension, there is no response from the authorities, citing the case before NGT. This has made it difficult for investors, like HPPL, to go forward. HPPL has been struggling to start the work, he said.

Vaidya said, "Karnataka has 10 ports for development. Unless the government steps in to support the investors, who will invest here?"

RYOTS GUARD TOMATOES THROUGH NIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IMMEDIATELY, the information was passed on to the truck owner, and the Jaipur traders too tried to contact the driver and trace the movement of the vehicle, but were not successful, he added.

The owner of the vehicle and representatives from the two Kolar traders have headed to Jaipur to trace the vehicle. This is not the first such incident. Earlier this month, tomatoes worth Rs 2 lakh being transported in a jeep from Bengaluru to Kolar had been stolen. Farmers in the district, where tomato is grown on vast tracts, are guarding their produce throughout the night as there is a fear of miscreants stealing crates loaded with the vegetable. They have put up tents near their farms and are on guard duty over the last few days.

Kolar town Inspector Harish said policemen have been posted near the APMC yard to guard the pricey tomatoes.

A LONG WAIT

Fund crunch halts ambitious women's museum project

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

THE women's museum project on the premises of the Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University here is yet to see the light of the day. While the building to house the museum — built at a cost of Rs 5 crore — was ready in 2021, the university needs Rs 1 crore more to build galleries to display the artifacts brought from across the state.

Launched nearly five years ago, the project is facing fund shortage, delaying its inauguration.

"We have already collected over 5,000 artifacts that primarily focus on the different facets of women's life. We sent representatives to different districts to collect the artifacts. I wish to say with pride that it is going to be one-of-its-kind museums dedicated to women in the country. We have an impressive collection, showcasing the diverse roles and contribution of women," an informed source from the university told *The New Indian Express*, adding that the artifacts are presently stored in racks.

Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University in Vijayapura

The source said that the university has written to the State Government and the Union Government's Ministry of Culture to grant funds for the completion of the project. Besides the government, the university has also written to various companies to grant funds under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and to the Hyderabad-Karnataka Development Board.

"We are eagerly waiting for the government or any corporate company to grant the required funds which will help in completing the ambitious project. If we receive the required money, then we can complete the gallery work within four months and the museum will be ready for inauguration," the source added.

The Air Intelligence Unit of Customs at the Tiruchirappali International Airport on Sunday caught a Malaysian passenger allegedly smuggling exotic species of pythons and lizards. Sources said the 47 pythons and two lizards seized were inside boxes in the passenger's bag

Baptist Hosp organises cancer care marathon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BANGALORE Baptist Hospital organised a cancer care marathon on Sunday to raise awareness and support patients suffering from cancer. The doctors participating in the 50km-long marathon said it is their tribute to the patients showcasing strength and resilience towards fighting cancer. The department sees an average of 70 patients daily, and the hospital ensured to provide quality and cost-effective care to them, said Dr Saro Jacob, head of the oncology department. The doctors treating cancer patients regularly run marathons showcasing "health is truly wealth" by the miles they cover on their feet.

Hundreds arrive to pay last respects to the slain girl on Sunday| EXPRESS

Brutally raped Aluva girl gets tearful farewell

Accused Asafak Alam confesses to the crime, sent to judicial custody

ARUN M @ Kochi

HER BRUTAL end had shaken them to the core. Heart-wrenching scenes unfolded on Sunday as people in their hundreds emerged to pay their last respects to the five-year-old girl who was found murdered a day after she went missing from her home in Aluva.

Local residents, including elderly women, mothers and their children, lined up on either side of the road as the mortal remains were taken from her school to the funeral ground at Keezhmadu, near Aluva, where she was laid to rest.

Around 7am, the body was brought to the school from Kalamassery medical college hospital. From early morning, grievers in large numbers made their way to the school. On seeing the funeral casket, students, mothers and teachers were visibly filled with grief, with some struggling to contain their tears. The victim's parents and three siblings, who were also present at the school, were inconsolable.

All those who arrived to pay homage expressed their outrage at the brutal killing. The last rites were performed at the funeral ground around 11am.

The minor girl, who was abducted from her house in Choornikkara on Friday, was found dead after a nearly 21-hour search. Her body was found abandoned in a marshy area behind the Aluva fish market on Saturday afternoon.

The postmortem revealed that the girl had been sexually assaulted. Police arrested Bihar native Asafak Alam, 28, who stayed near the girl's residence. Alam has reportedly confessed to the crime.

ALAM REMANDED

KOCHI: Asafak Alam, who was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting and murdering the five-year-old girl, has been sent to judicial custody by the Aluva Judicial First Class Magistrate.

Joint pain, swelling of knees: Watch out for symptoms of juvenile arthritis

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

ARTHRITIS isn't a condition that affects only the adults. According to experts in the field, even youngsters, especially children, can suffer from a type of arthritis called juvenile idiopathic arthritis. According to doctors, juvenile idiopathic arthritis affects 1 in 10,000 adolescents each year and is a matter of concern.

Doctors advise parents to keep a check on their children to see if they complain of pain in the joints, stiffness or swelling of the knees, and not take it lightly. Doctors explained that rheumatoid arthritis itself is a highly prevalent condition affecting almost 1% of the entire adult population. The same condition that occurs in children is called juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

Dr Sagar Bhattad, Consultant, (Paediatric Immunology and Rheumatology), Aster CMI Hospital, explained that children as young as 2-3 years and up to 16 years are affected by juvenile idiopathic arthritis. "I get at least 15 new patients each month who suffer from juvenile idiopathic arthritis... 20% of them are chronic cases (with body deformities) that occur due to late diagnosis," Dr Sagar said.

With July observed as Juvenile Arthritis Awareness month, doctors highlighted that despite being common, the condition often gets ignored. Children in the growing age (3 to 8) often complain about joint pains which are not taken seriously by parents as they feel it is normal at that age. According to doctors, swelling of the knees is the first sign of juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Dr Sagar said that 500 children were diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis at his hospital in five years.

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis is an autoimmune disease which can last for several months. A child, especially in the growing age ends up suffering from lasting issues like disproportionate limb length or short stature. Even the quality of life is affected due to social factors like unwillingness to attend school, doctors opined. Though treatment is available which is taken over a course of time, children grow up to be healthy adults. "Early diagnosis plays a crucial factor to avoid worsening of the condition involving surgical treatments," Dr Sagar added.

Studies have explained that in juvenile idiopathic arthritis, the body's immune system — which normally helps to fight off infections and heal cuts and wounds — mistakenly attacks some of its own healthy cells and tissues.

FAITH FLOATS

A devotee performs a ritual during the Aadi procession at Sri Nagavalli Amman temple in Chennai on Sunday | P RAVIKUMAR

Body of youth drowned in Arasinagundi Falls traced

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Udupi

THE body of Sharath Kumar (23) of Bhadravati, Shivamogga district, who went missing after falling into Arasinagundi Falls in Kollur on July 23, was traced around 10.30 am on Sunday. Sources said the body was stuck in a small cavity in the rock. The video of Kumar falling off a slippery rock near the falls had gone viral, forcing the district administration to restrict tourist entry to all waterfalls in the district. The body was located about 100 metres away from the spot from where he slipped. As rain receded in the last two-three days, search operations intensified and the body was traced, sources said.

Arasinagundi Falls, which is in Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary in Kollur, comes under the Kudremukh Wildlife Division.

Kumar along with his friend, Gururaj, had arrived in Kollur and trekked for about six kilometres before reaching the waterfall. The rocks near the waterfalls were slippery and trekking was prohibited due to rain. Forest department officials had not permitted trekking, but the duo went ahead regardless. Kumar was apparently posing for a reel for his social media, while Gururaj was shooting the video.

Seven Keralites missing in Israel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Malappuram

In a mysterious turn of events, seven Keralites who were part of a tour group went missing in Israel on Friday last.

The travel agency that organised the trip alleged that the missing tourists have "absconded in search of jobs" in the middle eastern country.

Green Oasis Tours and Travels, a Malappuram-based travel agency, organised a 11-day trip for a group comprising 47 people to Jordan, Israel and Egypt on July 25.

Nine of them were denied visas to enter Israel, and the remaining 38 entered Israel after completing a three-day visit to Jordan, the agency's managing director Abdul Jaleel said.

"Last Friday, seven of them went missing. In fact, they intentionally absconded to find job, like that of domestic help, in Israel, bypassing legal channels," he said. Their plan was to make money and return to India with the assistance of the Indian Embassy in Israel, he alleged.

Of the seven missing, four are from Thiruvananthapuram and three from Kollam, he said.

Certain rackets in Kerala recruit people for jobs in Israel and send them as tourists to that country along with genuine travellers. Once inside Israel, they abscond, he alleged. Such rackets charge hefty amounts for the illegal activity.

Abdul Jaleel said the tour fee of five among the missing persons was paid by a single person. One individual paid Rs 14 lakh through his bank account as the tour fee for a group of 11 people. Of this, visa applications of six were rejected. The remaining five got into Israel, and absconded, he said.

The Israeli destination partner of the agency has demanded a compensation of $15,000 per person gone missing, citing losses incurred due to their disappearance.

The travel of the remaining tourists in Israel would be affected if the payment was not made.

Abdul Jaleel said they have filed a complaint with the Malappuram district police chief Sujith Das, Kerala DGP, the chief minister, the Union ministry of external affairs, and the Israel embassy, seeking assistance to repatriate the seven individuals back to Kerala.

"Such unlawful activities not only tarnish the reputation of the country but also risk potential repercussions, including Israel ceasing to accept visa applications from India," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Techie killed in road mishap

BENGALURU: A 35-year-old software engineer was killed in a road mishap after he rammed his car into a tree in Kengeri on Saturday. The deceased, Nikhil Kumar, was a resident of Tataguni off Kanakapura Road. His father is an ex-serviceman, while his mother works as a teacher. According to the police, Kumar was going to pick up a friend at night and while passing Vrishabhavati Bridge at NICE Road, he lost control and slammed the vehicle into a tree. Due to the impact of the collision, he died on the spot. The Kengeri traffic police have registered a case.

New levy to burden migrants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A PG or a hostel comes under the ambit of affordable housing and is not a commercial business." Even 12 per cent GST will be Rs 1,000 extra per month and will be a burden on a person, especially a student. There needs to be clarity on affordable housing and definition of 'residential dwelling' as it is unfair to levy GST on many tenants sharing a house.

Many people from tier 2 and tier 3 cities come to Bengaluru for work or studies. The new levy will financially burden them, he added.

People are already complaining about the high cost of living in the city and this will only make it worse, citizens said. Supriya Mehta, a professional residing at a PG in Ejipura, said, "PGs in Bengaluru are already quite expensive. I pay Rs 10,000 for a double-sharing room. If taxes are levied on the PGs and co-living spaces, they will become unaffordable to certain groups of people. Students surviving on pocket money and low-salaried employees will find it difficult to manage their expenses if they have to spend a lot of money on rent."

However, small business operators and big commercial players don't have to panic but should ensure that the industry is ready to accept it if it becomes mainstream. Though owners with an annual turnover of less than Rs 20 lakh are not obliged to sign up for GST. Even if their revenues are higher they can consider re-looking at positioning their services to reduce the overhead of GST, experts suggested.

Textile Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

ESTD. : 1963

Administrative Office : Devanga Market, 2nd Floor, Sri Devara Dasimayya Road, (J.M. Road), Bengaluru-560 002. Ph: 48521054; Email: textilecbl@gmail.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Whereas at the request of you, (below mentioned Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s)) **Textile Co-Operative Bank Limited**., Main Branch, has granted credit facilities from time to time by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favor of the Bank. The Particulars of the Property mortgaged by you by way of Deposit of Title Deeds creating security interest in favor of the Bank is mentioned here under. As you failed to discharge the debt due to Bank, the below mentioned loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Assets as per the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. As the Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act was sent to you through Registered Post calling upon you to discharge the debts due to Bank but the notice could not be served on you or the guarantors for various reasons however the notice were returned unserved, therefore we are issuing this Notice through paper publication.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Date of NPA & Demand Notice Date	Amount due as on 31.05.2023
1	**Borrower** **Sri. Dinesh Kumar .S** S/o C. Sampath Kumar **Guarantors** **1. Sri. Praveen T.N** **2. Sri. Sampath Kumar C**	**IPL - 983** **Rs.11,00,000/-**	**06.02.2016 & 21.06.2023**	**Rs.19,10,575/-**

Details of the Security to be enforced: Property No.8, PID No.10-65-8, 8th Cross, (Jaraka bande kaval), Sree Kanteshwara Nagar, Bengaluru-560096, property measuring 30*51 bounded on **East by:** Property of Kuppa Reddy, **West by:** Property of Lakshmidevamma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property of Railway mens Society. This Property Mortgaged in Flat No. 8, (G-1 Ground Floor) P.I.D No.10-65-8, In above address constructed in 500 sq.ft area 1/6 undivided share.

Therefore, the Notice is given to the Borrower (s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) as mentioned in above calling upon them to make payment of the amount due as shown above within 60 days of publication of this Notice, the said amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment is not paid. **Textile Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon property as described above all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-section (4) of the Section of 13 of SARFAESI Act. Please Note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Textile Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,** to initiate against the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other provisions of law. You are further requested to note that as per Section 13 (13) of the said Act, you are restrained/prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise without prior consent of the Bank. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 31.07.2023 **Sd/-**

Place: Bengaluru. **Authorized Officer**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage properties in the below mentioned accounts for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 27.07.2023	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	30198850007462	**1) M/s. Sri Lakshmi Silk & Sarees,** Represented by its Proprietor **Mr. Muniswamy P, 2) Mr. Muniswamy P** Proprietor **M/s. Sri Lakshmi Silk & Sarees, 3) Mrs. M Hemalatha**	28.06.2019	02.06.2020	**Rs.15,35,842/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Two Only)	**08.08.2023 Time 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM**	**Rs.15,30,000/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	**Rs.1,53,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Only)	**17.08.2023 Time: 02:00 PM**	**16.08.2023 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing Site No.11, formed out of Sy.No.1/1 measuring 1 Acre 10 Guntas, converted for non agricultural purpose vide DC Conversion, DC Order No.ALN (ND) SR-39/2012-13 dated: 12.10.2012, situated in Seshagiri Rao Palya Village, Dasanpura, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East To West: 30ft & North To South; 46'6" in all measuring 1398 Sq.ft and **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.15, **North by:** Site No.10, **South by:** Site No.12.									
2	30258310000058	**1) Mr. Shivakumar, 2) Mrs. Usharani, 3) Mary Stella Rani**	29.08.2020	26.03.2021	**Rs.9,97,915/-** (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen Only)	**08.08.2023 Time 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM**	**Rs.9,80,000/-** (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	**Rs.98,000/-** (Rupees Ninety Eight Thousand Only)	**17.08.2023 Time: 02:00 PM**	**16.08.2023 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**
	Details of Secured Assets: Schedule-A - Description of Immoveable Property: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 acres and 18 Guntas including the kharab land in Sy.No.39/1, 39/2, 40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibelehobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural Taluk Bangalore and **Bounded on the: North by:** Maya Sandra Gadi, **South by:** Lands in Survey No.41, **East by:** Lands in Survey No.43, **West by:** Road. **Schedule-'B' Property - Property to be conveyed:** The undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property mentioned above works out to 195 square feet. **Schedule-'C' - Description of Residential Unit:** Residential Apartment Bearing No.B-112 First Floor of Tower-08, consists of One Hall, One Bed Rood, Kitchen, Bathroom and a balcony, in the residential Apartment Complex known as "Janaadhar Shubha" constructed on the Schedule-"A" Property having a super built up area of 400 square feet with vitrified flooring and on the proportionate share in the common areas, such as passages, stairs, ducts well and/or rooms water, drainage and/ or electrical conduit/s and/or other areas used in common with the purchasers of other Apartments.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Bhaskar Naidu Contact Number: 8142000809/ 8142000061. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / subbarao@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob No.9590858249) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 31.07.2023, Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

EDITORIAL

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children" — Nelson Mandela

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SC DEMOLISHES NIA PROOF AGAINST ELGAR CASE ACCUSED

Five years after they were arrested in the Elgar Parishad violence case, civil rights activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferriera were granted bail by the Supreme Court on Friday. They and 14 others face charges under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Gonsalves and Ferriera got bail on merit after the Bombay High Court granted similar relief to another accused, Anand Teltumbde, eight months ago. However, the high court refused it to Gonsalves and Ferriera, hence their appeal to the Supreme Court. Two other accused are also out of jail on different grounds—Sudha Bharadwaj on default bail and Varavara Rao on medical bail. Another accused, Gautam Navlakha, is under house arrest.

"Graver the offence, greater should be the care taken to see that the offence would fall within the four corners of the Act," the court observed as it clinically dissected the NIA's material against Gonsalves and Ferriera. The charges against them included membership of the proscribed Communist Party of India (Maoist), recruiting youth, training cadre and handling funds for the outfit. The NIA claimed they were members of the banned outfit through its frontal organisation, the Indian Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL). But it failed to produce material directly linking IAPL with the CPI(Maoist). Going further, the court interpreted UAPA's Section 38, which deals with the offence of membership in a terror outfit. The bench said it was insufficient to prove the association of the accused with the outfit; the NIA has to establish the intention of the duo to further its terror objectives. But there was no evidence on record to do so. In its affidavit, the NIA cited the recovery from their premises of books and other literature on violence and promoting the overthrowing of a democratically elected government through armed struggle. But the mere possession of such literature would not attract stringent provisions of the UAPA, the bench reasoned. As for the handling of funds, the court inferred they were mainly used for litigation on behalf of party workers.

It's nobody's case that the probe agency ought not to have gone after those waging war against the nation. But having made the accusation, it is its responsibility to build a watertight case. Going by how the SC systematically shredded the limited evidence they produced, the NIA's ability to take the case to its logical conclusion during trial does appear suspect.

TIME TO AMP UP SCRUTINY ON CORPORATE BUYBACKS

Buyback of shares by corporate India has picked up steam since 2022. Last year, 58 listed companies bought back shares worth almost ₹50,000 cr. So far this year, 34 companies have announced share buybacks worth ₹28,000 cr. Recently, L&T announced a buyback of shares worth ₹10,000 cr. Wipro completed a ₹12,000 cr exercise in June, while the Infosys buyback in February was worth ₹9,300 cr. Share buybacks in India do not attract the kind of scrutiny that buybacks in the US do. Perhaps it is time for more debate on the merits of buybacks.

There are many reasons why companies buy back shares—increasing promotors' control, averting hostile takeovers, etc., but the most common reason is to boost the share price. Buybacks are considered suitable for investors as they are offered a premium for surrendering their shares. Those who do not surrender their shares gain due to increased prices. In buybacks, already-issued shares are bought back by the company and cancelled. Due to fewer shares remaining in the cart, the share price increases. Buybacks are often criticised because they unfairly boost share prices, benefiting promoters, large investors and key company officials who hold large chunks of shares. Also, companies use cash from their reserves for buybacks instead of investing in more productive ventures like capital expenditure, R&D or upskilling employees. One of the reasons why buybacks escape scrutiny in the country is that Indian laws do not allow companies to buy back shares using borrowed money like in the US. But the timings of the buybacks can be suspect. Last December, when Paytm's parent company, One 97 Communication, announced an ₹850-cr buyback of shares, proxy advisory firms questioned the decision as Paytm was yet to register a profit. By announcing a buyback, the company dug into reserve cash to benefit its shareholders and large investors.

The Indian government slashed corporate tax rates from 30% to 22% in 2019, hoping the move would help increase private investments. But private investments remain lackluster, and corporates have been accused of using the money to buy back shares and pay dividends to investors instead of investing in capacity-building. It is time to subject buybacks by large corporates to greater scrutiny in the country and raise ethical and moral questions over rewarding large shareholders through buybacks.

QUICK TAKE

BARRIER-LESS TOLLING

The government plans barrier-less tolling by linking Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and satellite navigation with Fastag to reduce waiting time at toll plazas. An overdue initiative, its success depends on robust deterrence and quality equipment complementing the innovation. The new cameras should adapt to Indian situations. They should read a licence plate in 20–50 milliseconds and also have motion sensors to detect vehicles driven wrong-side. Inferior cameras with blurry images and dysfunctional toll guns should be passe. Simultaneously, the introduction of Bharat series number plates can avoid confusion or delayed recognition of current plates with variations in colour, font, text or location.

Rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India are being violated without compunction and the majoritarian viewpoint is ruthlessly foisted upon us

STATE OF INDIA: NOT WELFARE OF ALL, BUT WELL-BEING OF A FEW

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Recent events in the country have shown that there is not only a disconnect between the people and those who govern them but the institutional structures of the country are also being eroded, slowly yet surely.

On the one hand, we celebrate the unique position of India in the context of the global community looking at our country as the new investment destination. The manufacturing of chips to be used in semiconductors, the possible investments in that sector, the interest of Elon Musk, now the proprietor of Twitter, to launch Tesla electric vehicles in the country, the much-touted popularity of our dear prime minister for his forays into several national capitals of the world, proximity with our Quad partners in our intent to make sea lanes secure in the South China Sea, our proximity with Japan and its interest in India as an attractive alternative investment destination are matters that definitely suggest that if India responds positively and builds an appropriate architecture for foreign investment, it will have much to gain.

On the other hand, we are witnessing an India where violence against women continues unabated, an India where, while Manipur burns, governance structures are clueless and choose to be silent, not willing to listen to the wailing cries of women, of families, and of a whole community bearing the brunt of ethnic violence. In the midst of all this, we find our prime minister's silence inexplicable. Our home minister, who should have known of the wanton killings in Manipur, chose to immerse himself in the election campaign in Karnataka and waited till May 29 to go to Manipur while the state had been burning since May 4. This shows how our governance structures are insensitive enough not to respond to situations as volatile as the one in Manipur.

The manner in which our women wrestlers were treated, and the investigating agencies' unacceptable response which resulted ultimately in Brij Bhushan Singh getting bail, shows the disconnect between the concerns of the people and the partisan interests of the political party in power. The way in which the Bilkis Bano case resulted in the early release of those convicted for life for an unthinkable heinous crime—and the manner in which the BJP feted and garlanded them—suggests that while they celebrate the act of criminals, the victims lose hope.

We also witness lynching of innocent, defenceless victims in broad daylight; their only fault is perhaps the caste and community they belong to. The investigating machinery is loath to prosecute the accused and when prosecuted, chooses to turn a blind eye to their guilt. Hate speeches directed towards a particular minority community have become rampant, with even some ministers of the ruling dispensation taking the lead.

Institutional structures, too, have a lot to answer. Parliament as an institution has become dysfunctional—the ruling establishment, with its brute majority, chooses to do what it wants, without realising that both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are chambers for debate where the Treasury Benches should allow matters as serious as Manipur to be discussed openly without fetters of timelines. Legislative business in the Parliament is conducted only to fulfil procedural necessities. Important bills having far-reaching ramifications are rushed and passed with no scope for debate and discussion. At the same time, we watched with great concern the use of the investigating machinery to topple governments, discredit the opposition leaders and seek to destabilise elected governments in opposition-ruled states. In this context, we watched with dismay as the Supreme Court allowed for the extension of an appointment which it previously held to be illegal.

We also witness draconian laws being invoked to suppress dissent, and personal liberty being taken away with utter disregard to the concept of proportionality; rights guaranteed under our Constitution are being violated without compunction and the majoritarian viewpoint is ruthlessly foisted upon us. People and communities stand divided. Those aligned with the ideology of the ruling class are preferred to those with an alternative viewpoint. Minorities are often targeted and find themselves at the receiving end of the mighty State apparatus. Jingoism rules the roost, with the rule of law targeting dissenting voices. Those in opposition are perceived to be anti-national. Forging of a broad-based alliance in opposition to the government is mocked while the suspect alliances of the ruling party with insignificant motley parties are projected as the alliance for future.

Prices of diesel and petrol and inflation in relation to essential commodities and services have resulted in millions of our people not being able to access essentials for the survival of their families. The common man struggles to keep pace with the ever-widening gap between his income and expenditure. He has no resources left to invest for the future of his children.

Unemployment remains high, hovering above 8%. Only 73 million out of the 150 million urban workforce has a full-time job. The youth unemployment rate is on the rise too. According to the World Bank, nearly a quarter of Indians aged between 15 and 24 were jobless in 2022. At the same time, real wages in rural India have contracted for 16 consecutive months as of March 2023.

The focus has shifted from welfare of the masses to the well-being of a select few. A country's growth, in the context of our people's well-being, cannot be judged solely based on GDP, where the rich thrive and the poor look to survive. This is the state of my India today and together, we need to change it.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

A REFRESHING OLD VIEW OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

As a legatee of Indian reform, I am grateful to the laws of the land and to the enlightened Indian fathers who let their girls out of the box over the last 100 years, to study, work, travel, and marry—or not marry—as they chose. However, it is still a heavily patriarchal society with sky-high expectations of a wife. In Tulsidas' *Ramcharitmanas* from the 16th century, *Aranya Kand*, Verse Four, Rishi Atri's wife Anasuya gives this advice to Sita: "Devotion of body, speech and mind to the feet of her lord, the husband, is the only duty, sacred vow and penance for a woman."

This job description was detailed in South India in the 13th century in a popular verse by Telugu poet Bhadra Bhupala or 'Baddena':

"Karyeshu dasi, karaneshu mantri, bhojeshu mata, shayaneshu Rambha, roopeshu Lakshmi, kshamayeshu Dharitri, shath dharmayukta kuladharmapatni."

It means, "Like a servant doing the chores, like a minister giving her husband intelligent advice, serving him food as a mother feeds her child, like the *apsara* Rambha in bed, as beautiful as Lakshmi, and as forbearing as Mother Earth: the woman who has these six qualities is the ideal wife."

However, a well-known Sanskrit scholar in Kumbakonam could not tell me of any corresponding scriptural virtues and qualities required of a husband, when I asked him back in 2008. To his credit, he admitted it with unsparing honesty after spending a sleepless night trying to find an instance.

So, I was intrigued some years later to discover a forgotten story in the *Markandeya Purana*, said to date back to around 250 CE. The *purana* is a collection of stories-in-a-story comprising 9,000 verses. It is best-known for the section called 'Devi Mahatmyaham', recited every year at Durga Puja. But in this story that I would like to retell, Rishi Markandeya acquaints his disciple Kraustuki with the complex give-and-take between husbands and wives.

There was once a king called Uttama who was happily married to a beautiful queen named Vahula. Though shy by nature, she was a practical person. She knew she had a public role to play and took part with composure in all her queenly duties, be it in court or at the sacrificial fires. She ran the women's quarters with utmost sense, discouraged petty behavior, and gave her household a good tone. The maids adored her and the public respected her.

But a star-crossed phase befell Vahula. She felt neglected by her husband and no longer found him interesting or attractive. She began to withdraw subtly from him and soon, more openly. The three pains according to Samkhya philosophy are *Adhyatmika*, born of the mind and body; *Adhidaivika* or supernatural; and *Adhibhoutika*, because of an incident or calamity. All three were to fall on the royal couple's heads.

PRAVIKUMAR

> Uttama had a bit too much wine. He thrust his goblet at Vahula, who pointedly turned away. Uttama lost his temper and ordered the guards to take Vahula to the forest and abandon her there

The tension between Uttama and Vahula grew and grew without a single conversation about it. One evening at a public dinner with rich merchants and foreign diplomats present, Uttama had a bit too much wine. He thrust his goblet at Vahula, who pointedly turned away. Uttama lost his temper and ordered the guards to take Vahula to the forest and abandon her there. Vahula swept off silently with a proud smile.

Soon after this catastrophe, a poor priest appeared in court to demand the king's help. Someone had stolen his wife from their hut in the middle of the night.

"Describe her, we'll send out search parties," said Uttama.

"She's not very pretty and she has a foul temper," disclosed the priest.

"What?" exclaimed Uttama. "It would be easier to find you a new wife, you know."

"King," said the priest reproachfully, "My wife is my wife. It is my duty to protect her from the rest of the world, from my own family, and even from myself."

"But where can we look without more information?" countered Uttama.

"Lord of the Earth, you take a sixth of our produce as your due. Your subjects are supposed to sleep peacefully because you uphold the law," said the priest unyieldingly.

Abashed, Uttama assembled a hunting party and soon found the priest's wife unharmed in the forest, placidly eating plums. It was the neighbourhood *rakshasa* who had kidnapped her just to disturb the priest's *pujas*, which required his wife's presence. The priest and his wife then cheerfully went their way while the rebuked *rakshasa*, already berated soundly by the hot-tempered lady, promised to behave itself in future.

This incident left Uttama deeply ashamed of the way he had treated Vahula, making no attempt to understand her but treating her like a well-oiled machine at his beck and call. Further, he discovered through a *rishi* with supernatural sight that Vahula had been kidnapped by the serpent king Karpotaka and was hidden away in a cave by the serpent princess Nanda. Uttama made his way with great difficulty to the serpent kingdom and challenged Karpotaka to single combat. It was a close, fierce fight but the determined king had the best of it. When he found his wife, led by the serpent princess, he gathered Vahula lovingly to him with concerned, affectionate words, and manfully asked her to forgive him. At this, the queen found herself unable to hold a grudge and spoke to him with renewed love.

Nanda could not speak because she had been cursed by her angry father for hiding Vahula, and the queen wanted to perform a Saraswati Puja to beg the Goddess of Knowledge to restore Nanda's speech.

"We can do that better at home, let's take Nanda back with us," urged Uttama, and all was made well for the principled and upright serpent princess. In due course she was even able to go back home to her now-repentant father.

As for Uttama and Vahula, they lived in great harmony after these harrowing events brought them back together, and the king never took his queen for granted again…

"Know therefore, Kraustuki," said Rishi Markandeya, "A husband has many duties, but chiefly, moral gallantry."

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Aluva murder

The ghastly killing of the little girl in Aluva is definitely not the failure of the system but the egregious standard of the bigwigs presiding over it. Right from the top district administration to the local police station, all are blithely and comfortably oblivious to their exact roles in this incident.
Pakiteeri Raghunathan, Thrissur

Child safety

It is really heartbreaking to know that a five-year-old girl was brutally raped and murdered in Kerala. In Indian tradition, a child is akin to God. But the safety of children, even at home, is a question mark. The judges must give the maximum punishment to the accused.
Alen, Thiruvananthapuram

Semiconductor industry

PM Modi's incentive of 50% financial assistance to firms setting up semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the country deserves wholehearted appreciation. India must not let this opportunity go to waste, for, if it succeeds in becoming a semiconductor manufacturing hub, it can offer a viable alternative to China's semiconductor industry.
M J Azizi, Hyderabad

Parliament productivity

Ref: *Rule row keeps Manipur out of earshot* (July 30). Senior citizens who witnessed parliamentary sessions in the old days can clearly see how the quality of proceedings has plummeted now. The opposition's insistence that PM Modi should speak about Manipur in both Houses is also a reason for the ongoing deadlock. The responsibility for Parliament productivity falls on people's representatives since the institution is run using taxpayers' money. Like the writer said, mutual trust and flexibility between the two sides are essential to run our sanctimonious Parliament.
K Jayanthi, Chennai

Upskilling youth

Ref: *No time to celebrate, yet* (July 30). As Dipak Mondal rightly said, to a common man, a GDP rise is only on paper unless it results in an increase in his income. Most industries have automated processes, requiring more skilled workers. Economists and columnists say upskilling is the government's responsibility, but hardly advise the youth to continuously upskill. Modi's upskilling policy is in the right direction but Congress opposes it.
Abhay Dixit, email

News race

The rat race among TV news channels to sensationalise incidents is getting more horrible by the day. News on child abuse, rape, road accidents, murders and other brutalities are telecast for hours, thrusting aside all other developments. Beyond a point, it becomes blabbering, and is sickening for the viewers.
Geetha B K, Mangaluru

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

P Chidambaram @PChidambaram_IN
The claims of the government that they had built "74 airports in the last 7 years" are hollow and untrue. Only 11 new airports were built since May 2014 and which are operational.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Some people plant some trees and loot the forests. By snatching the primitive rights, they evict the forest people.

G Kishan Reddy @kishanreddybjp
The recent repatriation of more than 100 Indian antiques from America has ignited a sense of pride in our Culture & Heritage among the youth.

Semicon mission aims to meet global demand: EAM

Jaishankar highlights growing cooperation with Japan, US in the area

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday asserted that India's semiconductor mission is not just about meeting domestic requirements, but also contributing to a global demand for trusted manufacturing.

Addressing the Semicon India Conference 2023 held in Gujarat's Gandhinagar virtually, Jaishankar told top executives of leading global semiconductor firms that an India-Japan pact on cooperation on the semiconductor supply chain was finalised this month. He said a similar agreement was signed with the US in March.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks at the Semicon India Conference 2023 via a video conference on Sunday | PTI

The minister noted that the depiction of a "chip war" may be somewhat overstated, but it has more than a fundamental kernel of truth. "Our semiconductor mission is not just about meeting domestic requirements. It is also about contributing to a global demand for trusted manufacturing. It is truly a powerful case for Make in India and Make for the World," the minister said.

He also highlighted India's growing cooperation in the critical technology domain with the US and mentioned the MoU on semiconductor supply chain and innovation partnership that was firmed up during US Commerce Secretary Gina M Raimondo's visit to New Delhi in March.

"It sought to establish a collaborative mechanism that would represent a productive intersection of America's CHIPS and Science Act and India's semiconductor mission," he said, adding that cooperation in semiconductors was in focus during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US last month.

"Three US firms — Micron Technology, Lam Research and Applied Materials — made specific commitments that have been the subject of your deliberations as well," he said, adding that India's entry as the latest member of the 'Minerals Security Partnership' is noteworthy, given the importance of diversifying and securing supply chains in that area now.

"India is signing the Artemis Accords and promoting stronger ISRO-NASA collaboration. It is visible also in the creation of a joint Indo-US Quantum Coordination Mechanism," Jaishankar said, emphasising that the Innovation Handshake between Indian entities and the National Science Foundation holds much promise.

Indian security agencies pool in ideas to counter China's 'invisible warfare'

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Indian security establishment has been conducting an exercise to bring multiple agencies on a common ground following China's wider application of 'Grey Zone Warfare.'

The Grey Zone is defined as "competitive interactions among and within state and non-state actors that fall between the traditional war and peace duality" by the United States Special Operations Command.

Multiple sources in the Indian security establishment called the ongoing exercise a significant initiative and have confirmed an elaborate multi-page note on the Grey Zone Warfare sent to more than 10 agencies, which included those from intelligence, military and the Central Armed Police Forces. The exercise also initiated pooling of ideas to counter it.

"The exercise has been of good use," said a source, but did not elaborate on its outcome.

Mentioning China's application of the Grey Zone Warfare (GZW), the note cites instances such as the South China Sea, the development of the border defence villages along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Chinese investment in the media. The same tactics were also rolled out during Doklam, said the sources.

(Grey Zone is) competitive interactions among and within state and non-state actors that fall between the traditional war and peace duality
United States Special Operations Command

The paper identifies Grey Zone Warfare being employed by China against India and its friendly neighbours.

China's major application of GZW is related to the border defence villages that gained impetus after the 19th Communist Party Congress in October 2017. These more than 600 villages are being built to create a buffer. These will be of multiple usages, including facilitation of movement along the borders, a means of surveillance on forces and strengthening territorial claims. It also says that there should be facilities comparable to or better than China, including roads, habitation, power and other amenities.

The highlight is Chinese investment in "news aggregation and applications" in India.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Email: shahid@newindianexpress.com

BJP's Battle Plans

CM FACE IN RAJASTHAN UNLIKELY, SHIVRAJ CUT TO SIZE

The BJP's organisational reshuffle and appointment of election-related committees last week sent a clear signal that the party will not project any chief ministerial candidate in Rajasthan. Sources said the appointment of former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje as national vice-president ends her chance of becoming the state election campaign committee chief, a post she reportedly covets. In a state where a party is not in power, a chief ministerial candidate generally gets one of the three posts – state party president, legislature party leader or chief of campaign committee. Vasundhara lost out on the first two, and, according to sources, her induction as a national office-bearer has put paid to the possibility of her appointment as head of the campaign committee. The party seems set to face the election in Rajasthan without a CM face. In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP tried to counter the anti-incumbency of its state government and chief minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan by appointing Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar as chief of the election management committee. Tomar is considered close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His appointment is fuelling speculation about his return to the state. It is perhaps for the first time that the BJP has given the post of election management committee chief to someone other than its sitting chief minister. The party has also deployed heavyweights like Bhupendra Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnav, both Union Ministers, to manage the MP campaign. The appointments in the two states leave little doubt that the BJP is not relying on any one face and would go into the election with a team of its top leaders leading the campaign.

Ram Idol at Ayodhya

K'TAKA GREEN STONE CHOSEN OVER NEPALI SHALIGRAM

Which rock should be used to sculpt the idol of Lord Ram for the temple coming up at his birthplace in Ayodhya? This question has been discussed for a long time while considering rocks from across the country and abroad and checking out some samples in Ayodhya. One such rock is from Nepal. This sacred stone from river Gandaki in Nepal is called Shaligram and is considered a form of Lord Vishnu. Lord Ram is the seventh avatar of Vishnu. On its journey from Nepal to Ayodhya, the stone was taken to the Gorakhnath temple, headed by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath. He was reportedly keen on using this stone to carve out the lord's idol. But sources said a final decision has been taken to use a green stone from the banks of river Tungabhadra in the Udupi district of Karnataka to make the idol to be installed in the temple's sanctum sanctorum. Sources said convincing the chief minister about the final choice required some persuasive skills. The construction of the temple and the sculpting of the idol are going on in full swing and the Pran Pratishtha or the consecration of the temple is likely to take place in the second half of January next year.

NFHS director suspended for 'irregularities in hiring'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

IN A sudden move, the Centre has suspended K S James, director of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), which prepares the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), over alleged irregularities in hiring.

Sources, however, claimed that James was issued the suspension order because the government was reportedly "unhappy with the unfavourable health data, especially on anemia, and on the number of toilets in the country, which was contrary to their claims."

In a statement, the Union health ministry said it had recently received complaints regarding irregularities in recruitments and compliance with reservation orders.

"The suspension order shows that truth and data is the casualty," said a source, adding that James, who hails from Kerala, was earlier asked to resign but he refused. "I am not able to digest this fact. This is shocking," said a senior faculty member, wishing not to be named.

IIPS chief administrative officer Lt Col Prashant Borde refused to comment on the issue. "Many want to come out in support of him, but are scared to do so. The environment in the campus is very tense. It is an internationally known organisation. What message is the government giving? It is simple. The next person who joins will tow the government line. Accurate data will never come out... This would mean the country's development will suffer in the face of inaccurate data," said a researcher, requesting anonymity.

As the report of suspension of the IIPS director went viral, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh questioned the government.

"When the data does not support the narrative being peddled by the PM and his drumbeaters, the Modi government will do one or all of the following: deny access to data, dispute the methodology into question, discard the data, discontinue its publication, defame those in charge of collating and putting it out," the Congress leader tweeted.

UP, Bihar, Andhra top 3 states in child trafficking, says study

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

CHILD trafficking in India increased after the pandemic in many states, according to a study. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh are the three states that reported the maximum number of children trafficked between 2016 and 2022.

According to the study, 'Child Trafficking Report in India', jointly released by Games 24/7 and the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), Uttar Pradesh saw a rise "from 267 reported incidents in the pre-Covid phase (2016-2019) to 1,214 in the post-Covid phase (2021-2022). "Karnataka showed an 18-fold increase from pre- to post-pandemic figures, with reported incidents soaring from six to 110," the report said.

According to rear admiral Rahul Kumar Shrawat, MD of KSCF, "Even as the numbers look grim and worrisome, there is no denying the fact that the way India has dealt with child-trafficking in the past decade. Prompt and frequent intervention by Central and state governments, as well as law enforcement agencies such as Railways Protection Force and Border Security Force in nabbing the traffickers and spreading awareness, has curtailed the number of trafficked children and led to a visible rise in the number of cases reported.

Jaipur city has emerged as the hotbed of child trafficking, said the report. It further noted while the maximum number of children aged between 13 and 18 years were engaged by most of the industries, the cosmetic industry was found to have engaged children falling under the age group of 5-8 years.

The report says around 80% of the rescued children fall within the age group of 13-18 years. While 80 per cent of the children rescued were adolescents in the age group 13-18 years, 13 per cent of the children were in the age group of 9-12 years and over 2 per cent were younger than 9 years.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN TRAFFICKED

Study shows that the number of children being trafficked post Covid-19 pandemic has gone up

STATES	PRE-COVID	POST-COVID
UP	267	1,214
Bihar	543	703
Andhra Pradesh	50	210
Karnataka	6	110
Delhi	63	106
Rajashthan	48	99
W Bengal	35	72
Orissa	22	59
Telangana	19	56
Gujarat	2	50
MP	10	41
Tamil Nadu	9	40

How Arun Nehru advised Rajiv to get the Babri Masjid locks opened

THIS was in the third week of January 1986. A worried Rajiv Gandhi had called his cousin over to get his advice. On 18 January, R&AW and IB chiefs had both reported to Rajiv Gandhi that unhappiness was growing amongst the Hindus over the government's decision to undo Shah Bano judgment.

Nehru suggested that the locks be opened at the enclosure in the Babri Masjid. A Ram idol had been clandestinely placed in the sanctum sanctorum by militant Hindus in December 1949. The mosque had been locked up, and neither Muslims nor Hindus were allowed entry. Hindus were allowed to offer prayers from outside the locked grille.

"If Rajiv got the locks opened and a temple built there, the Hindus will be happy," Nehru told Rajiv. Many Hindus, he told his cousin, were feeling aggrieved with Rajiv's 'appeasement' of Muslims. Arun Nehru did not pull his punches. He told the PM that he was losing ground. It was not just conservative Hindus who were upset with him, even liberal opinion was now against him.

Rajiv Gandhi asked Arun Shourie over to the PM's office. "I found Rajiv completely innocent of Muslim Personal Law, of case law in India and even the bill (he was planning to pass)," Shourie recalled. "I told the PM the bill would stoke a reaction. Already people were beginning to feel that the state was bending before extremists. This had happened in Punjab (and claimed the life of Indira Gandhi).

"Can the locks be opened?" Rajiv asked Arun Nehru, according to Arif Mohammed Khan who told me this story. "I will find out what can be done," Nehru said. He then spoke to Vir Bahadur Singh, the Congress chief minister of UP, where the disputed Babri Masjid was located. Unknown to Rajiv, Singh had already been on the job. A month earlier, the UP CM had visited Ayodhya to attend the Ramayan mela in the temple town.

While there, Singh asked officials to show him the entire file on the Ayodhya dispute. He discovered that the locks had been put there by an 'administrative', and 'not a judicial', order in 1949.

Since Singh was a protégé of Arun Nehru, it is not inconceivable that Nehru had put him on the job even before he called on Rajiv and suggested opening of the locks. Singh felt indebted to Nehru for having installed him as UP CM.

Nehru reported back to Rajiv. "Tell Vir Bahadur to get it opened," PM directed Nehru.

Nehru was to tell Arif Khan later, "I did not want it said later that Arun Nehru had given instructions to Singh (of his own accord)."

(Edited excerpts from Neerja Chowdhury's 'How Prime Ministers Decide' published by Aleph Book Company)

NSDC to train 1L nurses for overseas market

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

TO cater to the increasing global demand for qualified nurses, dental assistants, dialysis technicians, respiratory therapists, physiotherapists and other specialised healthcare professionals, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has undertaken an ambitious plan to train and equip around 1 lakh nurses and 10 million caregivers, so that they can be deployed overseas.

While thousands of healthcare workers have already been posted abroad in hospitals and institutes, the next batch is being given specialised skill training, apart from being given language proficiency training in English, Japanese, and German so that they fit in well and can communicate effectively in overseas placements.

NSDC, a public-private partnership firm with the primary mandate of catalysing the skills landscape in India, has undertaken the task of training a qualified healthcare workforce and placing them abroad.

Apart from that, the NSDC International Limited (NSDCI), a subsidy of NSDC, which is a leading global talent development organisation of India, is actively collaborating and partnering with Canada, UK, Australia, Germany, Singapore, Japan and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to meet their demand aggregation.

To ensure a steady supply of skilled healthcare workers, NSDCI has already set up international centres in India to train nurses and allied healthcare workforce. It is also planning to start Objective Structured Clinical Examination and the National Council Licensure Examination, a tool that can be utilised to assess healthcare professionals in a clinical setting, and language proficiency tests.

Also, collaborations have already been made with prestigious organisations like the University of Cambridge, Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment Trust, Goethe (German language course), and leading Japanese companies.

Similarly, in the UK, NSDCI is partnering with National Health Service Trust to meet the demand for 1,000 nurses and 1,500 care workers. The USA, Australia, Germany, Singapore, Japan, and GCC countries are also part of the strategic plan for demand aggregation.

"NSDC is at the forefront of strengthening the skilling ecosystem in India and understands the need for skilled health professionals in India and globally," said Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC and MD of NSDC International.

"NSDCI is working with various prestigious institutions, leading private companies to create global opportunities for healthcare workers and is playing a critical role in addressing the challenges around the availability of skilled talent in the healthcare sector. NSDCI is also working to create channels for skill harmonisation, and training with the partner nations to help bridge the skills gap and also to promote knowledge-sharing and collaboration between academia and industry," he told this paper.

NSDCI has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Nursing Council, a national regulatory body for nurses and nurse education in India, to create overseas opportunities for healthcare workers.

QUALITY TRAINING

1 lakh nurses and **10 million** caregivers will be trained for overseas market by NSDC

ACTIVE COLLABORATIONS
- With Canada, UK, Australia, Germany, Singapore, Japan and GCC countries
- University of Cambridge, Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment Trust, Goethe (German language course)
- Leading Japanese companies
- National Health Service Trust in the UK

NSDCI TO CONDUCT 2 EXAMS TO ASSESS TRAINEES
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination
- National Council Licensure Examination

AFFORESTATION

One thousand saplings were planted in a village in Maharashtra's Beed district with public participation as part of a conservation drive on Sunday. Villagers, volunteers and government officials took part in the drive.

04 HELD — AFTER KOLKATA COPS RESCUED BUSINESSMEN

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

Poll-driven Gehlot plans to set up panel on farm loan waiver

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

IN an effort to secure farmer votes in the upcoming elections in Rajasthan, the Ashok Gehlot government has proposed the establishment of a commission to streamline the process of waiving farm loans. The government aims to introduce a special bill during the final Assembly session on August 2.

If the Bill becomes law, it will greatly benefit farmers as banks and other financial institutions will no longer be able to seize and auction farm lands from those unable to repay their loans on time.

The Congress is facing flak for not being able to waive farmers' loans in full as it had promised in the 2018 elections. The Gehlot government rolled out a waiver of ₹14,000 crore for over 20.56 lakh farmers who had received loans from cooperative banks. Though the Congress has repeatedly asked the BJP government at the Centre to take urgent action for waiving the loans from nationalised, commercial and land development banks, the Centre has not allowed it.

While the nationalised banks come under the Centre's jurisdiction, cooperative banks function under the state government.

Once the commission under the new Bill is formed, it will prevent banks and financial institutions from pressuring farmers to recover loans in cases of crop failure due to any reason. Farmers will have the option to apply to this commission for loan waivers in such circumstances. The State Farmers Debt Relief Commission will comprise five members, including a chairman who will be a retired High Court judge.

Once an area is declared distressed by the Farmers' Debt Waiver Commission, banks will be prohibited from taking any action to recover loans by selling, confiscating, or auctioning farmers' properties.

BJP, Cong show of strength in Indore

Amit Shah addresses party workers, as Digvijaya and Kamal Nath attend tribal rally in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

THE country's cleanest city and Madhya Pradesh's financial capital Indore became the central point of competing politics between the ruling BJP and opposition Congress in the assembly poll-bound state on Sunday.

The ruling BJP organized a mega gathering of its booth-level workers in its impregnable fortress Indore-II assembly constituency. It was addressed by Union home minister Amit Shah. A few kilometers away, senior Congress leaders, including two former CMs, Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath, besides ex-JNUSU president-turned-NSUI's national in-charge Kanhaiya Kumar addressed an Adivasi Yuva Mahapanchayat.

The gathering of BJP's booth-level workers came from around 40 of the 66 seats of the Malwa-Nimar region. Shah (who has visited MP for the third time in 19 days) appealed to BJP workers to achieve an unprecedented victory for the party in the 2023 Assembly polls. He also told them to work to win all 29 LS seats from the state in the next year's general election to ensure a third stint for Narendra Modi as PM.

"It's not the leaders sitting on this stage, who win the elections for the BJP. It's our booth-level workers who win us the polls," Shah said.

Amit Shah welcomed by CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Indore on Sunday | PTI

Significance of Indore

Indore is the nucleus of the 66 seats of western and south-western or the Malwa-Nimar region of the poll-bound state. Over the years, the party, which has won the 66 seats-strong Malwa-Nimar, has gone on to form the government in the state. In 2013, BJP swept the region, winning 57 out of the 66 seats, while the Congress was far behind with just nine seats. Five years later, the Congress, however, turned the tables on BJP, by winning 36 seats.

While terming PM Modi as the "messiah of poor" for starting many pro-poor schemes, Shah said Congress, while being in power for years, didn't do anything for the poor.

He also took a dig at the previous Congress governments headed by Digvijaya Singh (whom Shah called Mr Bantadhar) and Kamal Nath (whom he dubbed as Corruption Nath), comparing their works with achievements of the BJP governments over 18 years in MP, particularly during the "double-engine" BJP governments at the Centre and in the state.

"No new industry was started in the 15 month regime of Corruption Nath, as only the transfer industry (18,000 Class I officers were transferred in Nath's 15 month regime) flourished. Whatever new industry has been established is the result of the Modi government at the Centre and Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in the state," Shah said.

He also raised the issues of surgical and air strikes on Pak soil, Ram temple construction in Ayodhya and the abrogation of Article 370.

Meanwhile, addressing an Adivasi Yuva Mahapanchayat (not directly organized by the Congress), both the ex-CMs Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath promised to include in the party's poll manifesto all those demands which were raised by the tribal youths through a 'Maang-Patra' at the Mahapanchayat on Sunday.

Lashing out at the BJP, the Union home minister, the CM and the MP home minister, ex-JNUSU president and current NSUI national in-charge Kanhaiya Kumar accused the BJP of pitting tribals against non-tribals in Manipur. He questioned country's first tribal President Droupadi Murmu's silence over tribal women paraded naked in Manipur.

While he dubbed MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan 'Kans Mama' and reminded that Kans Mama was eliminated by Kanhaiya, he mocked at MP home minister Narottam Mishra, saying his deeds make him Nikrishtham (worst).

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
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Cong MLAs meet Kharge, seek new Oppn leader

A Congress delegation of MLAs, led by Sangaram Thopate, recently met party president Mallikarjun Kharge, urging him to pick any party MLA as the leader of Opposition in the state assembly. The post has fallen vacant after Ajit Pawar split NCP. Kharge, in the meeting, came down heavily on MLAs over their working under the shadow of NCP chief Sharad Pawar and consulting him for Congress matters. He expressed displeasure over those MLAs who are influenced by the NCP chief. He told them this is the right time to emerge as the single largest political force in Maharashtra and not continue to play the second fiddle to anyone.

Shinde's time up? BJP mulls change of guard

After a recent meeting with PM Narendra Modi and HM Amit Shah, CM Eknath Shinde is a changed man, if sources around him are to be believed. In the recent business advisory meeting, he did not say even a single word. The meet was handled by his deputy Devendra Fadnavis. BJP brass has conveyed to Shinde that he has done well by toppling the Uddhav Thackeray government. However, pre-poll surveys reveal the going may get tough for BJP with Shinde as the leader of the BJP-Sena bloc. These findings have necessitated a change of guard.

NCP netas' hopes up after grants to Ajit camp

Maharashtra government has approved the `41,000-crore supplementary demands for grants given to the newly-merged Ajit Pawar faction to be used by its MLAs and ministers for development of their respective constituencies. Now, some NCP MLAs who had earlier refused to helm the finance ministry has asked the new finance minister to allocate enough funds for their own constituencies. NCP minister Anil Patil in supplementary demands had been given `25 crore while former minister and NCP MLA Rajendra Shingane was given `450 crore. Therefore, more MLAs received more fund than the ministers in supplementary demands.

Massive search on for missing jawan in J&K

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

A soldier who was on leave and was supposed to rejoin for duty on Sunday has gone missing from Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday evening.

Police sources said, the soldier, identified as 25-year-old Javed Ahmed Wani, left his home at Asthal village in Kulgam in south Kashmir on Saturday evening to buy food and has not returned since then.

They said the car in which he was travelling was found in the adjoining Paranhall village with its doors open. Javed who is with The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry and was posted at Leh, Ladakh, was on leave since Eid-ul-Adha.

The police, Army and the CRPF launched a massive joint search operation in Asthal and adjoining villages in Kulgam to track him down. "The search operation is going on and it has been further widened," a police official said. Officials did not confirm whether the missing soldier was abducted by terrorists. No terror group has so far claimed responsibility for his disappearance.

Javed had joined the Indian army in 2014.

Two youths swept away by Sutlej floodwaters in custody of Pak Rangers

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

TWO youth were swept away to Pakistan by the floodwaters of Sutlej river. This is second such incident within a week as a middle-aged deaf person was also swept away to the neighboring country earlier.

The Pakistani Rangers have told the Border Security Force (BSF) the two youth are in the custody of Pakistan.

According to sources, two youth were yesterday swept away to Pakistan in Sutlej river from near Ginniwala village in Ferozepur district of Punjab. After inquires by the security agencies, it was found that they belonged to a village in Jagroan area of Ludhiana district. They have been identified as Rattan Pal and Harvinder Singh.

The 182 battalion of the BSF guards this area on the Indo-Pak International border. "A flag meeting of the BSF and Pakistani Rangers took place in which this information was shared and further investigations are on," said a senior officer, adding that the officials are talking to the families of these youth.

Probe continues

The officers are tightlipped about this issue. Security agencies are investigating how two youths, who hailed from a place near Ludhiana, were swept away to the neighbouring country from the international border in Ferozepur.

The officers are tightlipped about this issue. Security agencies are investigating how two youth who from a place near Ludhiana were swept away to neighbouring country from the international border in Ferozepur.

As per IMD, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana are expected to receive a fresh spell of heavy rain next week. A yellow alert for August 2 and 3 has been issued. Earlier, a middle age deaf person, who has a tattoo on one of his arms, swept away in Sutlej river and was later found in the Kasur district of the Punjab province byPakistan Rangers.

The ranger shared the photo and video of the person with BSF at Ganda Singh Wala post adjacent to Hussenivala border.

Nitish meets ex-MPs to gauge popular mood before LS polls

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR CM and JD (U) supremo Nitish Kumar on Sunday called a meeting with his party's former MPs, MLAs and MLCs to discuss with them issues related to the party's organisation and preparations being made for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

A large number of JD (U) leaders attended the meeting held at 1, Anne Marg (chief minister's residence). The meeting assumes special significance in view of the fact that Nitish had not ruled out the possibility of the Lok Sabha election being held on an earlier date. Leaders who came to attend the meeting said that they were informed by the JD-U party office on Saturday that Nitish would meet everyone.

Sources claimed that the CM had already started making preparations for the Lok Sabha election. Earlier, he had met with JD (U) MPs, MLAs and MLCs. Nitish is taking feedback from his party leaders about the people's response to the formation of a new grand alliance government.

Bengal hastens to issue notification to form rural boards before August 16

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

EVEN as the verdict of the just-concluded rural polls is under the scanner of the high court, the state panchayat and rural development department has issued a notification asking district magistrates to form boards at rural bodies by August 16.

The notification has prompted a section of government officials to raise question whether it would cut short the five-year tenure of several rural bodies, particularly panchayat samitis and zilla parishads which had been formed between September and October in 2018.

They also found the decision to rush through the process of formation of boards may face legal challenges if someone takes up the matter with the court as the entire electoral exercise of the rural polls held on July 8 is under the scanner of the court.

"Responding to petitions related to violence during the process of the panchayat elections, the Calcutta High Court had earlier said the fate of the elected candidates depend on the cases pending before it. If someone challenges the government's notification asking districts administrations to form boards before the court's verdict, there may be result another round of legal complications," said a government official.

However, some officials of the panchayat department said as the high court didn't issue any order preventing the formation of the boards, the government couldn't be at fault for initiating the board formation process.

"Besides, the tenue of many gram panchayat boards will expire on August 16 and, so for these rural bodies, the process has to be completed by that deadline," said an official.

The state BJP objected the state government's move. "The state government is trying to bypass the 73rd amendment to the Constitution which secures a five-year tenure for rural bodies. Dissolving a board before time is a violation of the amendment," said a BJP leader.

J&K staff told to keep Tricolour in social media platforms on I-Day

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE Lt Governor administration in Jammu and Kashmir has directed government officials to post selfies with the flag, soil and earthen lamp on their display pictures on the social media handles on Independence Day.

As part of 'Meri Mitti, Mera Desh' campaign on this year's Independence Day, the J&K government has directed all government officers to post selfies with images of Jhanda (Tricolour), Mitti (soil) and Diya (earthen lamp) as DPs on their social media handles on August 15, the country's Independence Day.

The government has directed all administrative secretaries, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners and heads of the departments to ensure that the directions are implemented on the I-Day.

It is for the first time that the government has come out with such instructions for government officials.

In J&K, the main Independence Day function would be held at J&K Cricket Stadium at Sonawar, Srinagar where Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is expected to unfurl the Tricolour.

The administration has also stated that government officers and public at large will put up the flag on the top of their houses.

It has been directed that while hoisting the flag, it should be ensured it is hoisted in an appropriate and befitting manner having due regard to the flag code.

The government has decided that all government buildings, offices including schools, colleges, universities, urban local bodies, panchayats, blocks and tehsils would be decorated with lights and would hoist the national flag on the respective buildings and offices.

The government has made it mandatory for all officers above the rank of under secretaries to attend the Independence Day functions in the twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu.

Spirit of nationalism

As part of 'Meri Mitti Mera Desh' campaign on this year's Independence Day, the J&K government has directed all the government officers to post selfies with images of Jhanda (tricolour flag), Mitti (soil) and Diya (earthen lamp) as their display pictures on their social media handles on August 15. It is for the first time that the government came out with such instructions.

After 18 years, U'khand to count rare vultures

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

FOR the first time in Uttarakhand, four species of vultures will be studied closely by attaching satellite tags to them. This predator-category bird is on the verge of extinction.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified them as endangered birds. The forest department has sought permission from the government to tag the birds for the study to be held under Rajaji and Corbett Tiger Reserves.

Sameer Sinha, chief wildlife warden of the forest department, told this newspaper, "These four predatory birds belong to scheduled forest species. The Wildlife Act provides grant of special purpose licences in such cases, after which permission of the state government is required for education and research.

"In this sequence, permission has been sought from the government to put satellite tags on birds," Sinha said.

Dr Saket Badola, director of Rajaji Tiger Reserve and nodal officer for the project, told this daily, "The study will be conducted under Rajaji Tiger Reserve in Garhwal and Corbett Tiger Reserve in Kumaon.

These four predatory species of birds belong to a very rare category, but the good thing is that from time to time, their presence has been found in different areas of Garhwal and Kumaon of Uttarakhand

Dr Saket Badola, director of Rajaji Tiger Reserve

In this study, "information about the habitat, location, migration, their route, living conditions related information will be gathered. In this regard, a letter has been written to the Principal Secretary Forest and Environment on behalf of the Chief Wildlife Warden seeking permission for the study.

The four species of vulture that will be studied in Uttarakhand are the red-headed vulture, the white-tailed vulture (white rumped vulture), the white vulture (Egyptian vulture) and the Plas fish vulture species.

Director Dr Badola said, "These four predatory species of birds belong to a very rare category, but the good thing is that from time to time their presence has been found in different areas of Garhwal and Kumaon of Uttarakhand." The forest department is serious about their conservation, under which extensive studies will be done on them and this project will run for the next three years.

According to sources in the forest department, no one has an exact figure of the number of vultures that play an important role in maintaining the environmental balance in Uttarakhand. The statistics manual of the state forest department shows their numbers for the year 2005, according to which "the number of vultures in protected areas is 1,272 and 3,794 outside protected areas, taking the total to 5,066".

This data has not been updated since 2005 and now the forest department has once again made up its mind to "peek into the world of vultures".

FIVE
killed, 20 injured on Sunday when a bus overturned in Pakistan's Punjab province after the driver fell asleep

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	25	23	SNY	Los Angeles	31	21	LC
Colombo	31	26	LC	Melbourne	16	11	HR
Dhaka	35	28	SNY	Moscow	26	15	HR
Dubai	38	31	SNY	New York	29	19	LC
Houston	39	27	SNY	Singapore	32	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	21	SNY	Toronto	23	15	LC
London	22	14	LC	Washington	29	18	SNY

Ukraine says war returning to Russia after drone attack

3 drones targeted Moscow in an attempted terrorist attack: Kremlin

Investigators examine a damaged skyscraper in the "Moscow City" business district after a reported drone attack in Moscow, Russia on Sunday | AP

MOSCOW

RUSSIA said on Sunday it had downed Ukrainian drones targeting Moscow and the Crimea peninsula in attacks that damaged two office towers in Moscow and briefly shut an international airport.

Russia's defence ministry denounced an "attempted terrorist attack" which Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said would have been "impossible without the help afforded the Kyiv regime by the United States and its NATO allies."

The defence ministry said on Telegram, "On the morning of July 30, the Kyiv regime's attempted terrorist attack with unmanned aerial vehicles on objects in Moscow was thwarted. One Ukrainian UAV was destroyed in the air by air defence systems over Odintsovo district of Moscow region."

"Two more drones were suppressed by electronic warfare and, having lost control, crashed on the territory of Moscow-City's non-residential building complex." Videos showed that a drone had ripped off part of the facade of a modern skyscraper, IQ-Quarter, located 7.2 kilometres from the Kremlin. A security guard was injured, *Tass* reported. *Ria-Novosti* reported the building's tenants included several government agencies.

Ukrainian officials didn't acknowledge the attacks but President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, "Gradually, the war is returning to the territory of Russia—to its symbolic centres and military bases, and this is an inevitable, natural and absolutely fair process."

A Ukrainian air force spokesman also didn't claim responsibility but said the Russians were seeing the consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine. "All of the people who think the war doesn't concern them—it's already touching them," spokesperson Yurii Ihnat told reporters on Sunday. Ihnat also referenced an early Sunday drone attack on Crimea. The Russian defence ministry said on Sunday that 25 Ukrainian drones were destroyed by air defence in an attack on Crimea. "Another nine Ukrainian drones were suppressed by means of electronic warfare and, without reaching the target, crashed into the Black Sea," the ministry said, adding that there were no victims.

Flights were also temporarily suspended at Moscow's Vnukovo airport, and the airspace over Moscow and the outlying regions was temporarily closed. *Agencies*

Putin, several African leaders attend Russian naval parade

SAINT PETERSBURG

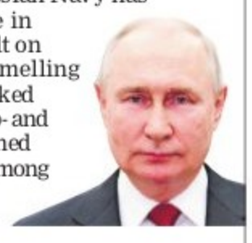
PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Sunday praised Russia's navy in an address at an annual warship parade in Saint Petersburg, which he attended accompanied by several leaders of African countries.

Without mentioning Ukraine in his speech, Putin hailed "the brave crews of ships and submarines."

"In the name of Russia, our sailors give all their strength, show true heroism and fight valiantly, like our great ancestors," Putin said. "Today, Russia is confidently implementing major elements of its national maritime policy and is consistently building up the power of its navy," he added. Forty five ships, boats and submarines took part in the parade along with around 3,000 servicemen, the Kremlin said.

The former imperial capital hosted a Russia-Africa summit earlier this week.Several leaders and representatives of African countries including Mali and Burkina Faso attended the parade on Sunday.

The military display took part as Moscow's offensive in Ukraine stretches into its second year and three Ukrainian drones were downed over Moscow early on Sunday. The Russian Navy has played a key role in Moscow's assault on Ukraine by pummelling the Western-backed country with ship- and submarine-launched cruise missiles, among several other operations.



Sunak backs plans for new oil and gas exploration

UK PM Rishi Sunak has backed plans for new fossil fuel drilling off Britain's coast, saying in an interview that he would be "pragmatic and proportionate" about reaching net zero

ROSEBANK DEVELOPMENT

His government is expected to approve the development of Rosebank, near Scotland's Shetland Isles—believed to be the UK's largest undeveloped oil and gas field—as well as other sites in the nearby North Sea imminently

UNHAPPY ACTIVISTS

The prospect has infuriated environmental campaigners, who argue that stopping all new fossil fuel exploitation is essential if Britain is to decarbonise by mid-century

They accuse the British leader of lacking conviction on climate policies and playing politics with the issue, as he eyes a general election due next year

"I think it makes absolutely no sense, as the Labour Party is suggesting, to ban North Sea oil & gas"
UK PM Rishi Sunak

SUNAK'S ARGUMENTS

The main opposition Labour party, well ahead in the polls, said earlier this year it will not issue any new North Sea drilling licences if it regains power

"EVERYBODY SENSIBLE RECOGNISES THAT WE WILL NEED THOSE FOSSIL FUELS AS PART OF THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO," HE SAID

Sunak said his approach was "to support the UK's energy industry" and appeared to suggest that not exploiting new UK oil and gas reserves risked "the lights going out" in Britain

ON MOTORISTS' SIDE

In another interview with the *Telegraph*, Sunak insisted he was on the side of motorists and said he had ordered a review of so-called low traffic neighbourhoods, contentious local authority-led tools to limit vehicle use in designated areas by blocking roads

$103 bn

"That is just going to weaken our energy security and strengthen the hands of dictators like (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin," he said, adding it jeopardised 2,00,000 jobs and threatened $103 billion worth of tax revenue

Lata Mangeshkar's melodies ring out in UK

LONDON

AFTER a gap of nearly 49 years since the music legend Lata Mangeshkar performed a rare live concert at Royal Albert Hall in London, some of her most popular songs rang out at the iconic venue once again for a special tribute concert.

'Lata Mangeshkar: Bollywood Legend' formed part of the *BBC's* annual summer season of orchestral music known as the Proms, usually devoted to western classical music with some recent attempts at widening its appeal to the Indian diaspora. Prom 18 on Friday night included many of the renditions from the award-winning late playback singer's own live renditions at the Royal Albert Hall back in March 1974, including 'Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo' and 'Aaega Aane Wala' from the 1949 film *Mahal*, accompanied by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO).

Lata Mangeshkar

"This is an extremely special moment for me, to be paying tribute to such a legend of Indian music, adored the world over," said singer Palak Muchhal, who performed a string of melodies. Muchhal, a prolific playback singer and philanthropist, opened the show with a rendition of the title track from the 1978 film *Satyam Shivam Sundaram* followed by tracks from Bollywood classics such as *Mughal-e-Azam* and *Kabhi Kabhie* to more modern-day numbers from *Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge*, *Mohabbatein* and *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*. The song selection for the concert included several medleys to span over more than half a century of Indian music. *PTI*

China accuses US of turning Taiwan into 'ammo depot'

TAIPEI

CHINA accused the United States of turning Taiwan into an "ammunition depot" after the White House announced a $345 million military aid package for Taipei, and the self-ruled island said on Sunday it tracked six Chinese navy ships in waters off its shores.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office issued a statement late Saturday opposing the military aid to Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

"No matter how much of the ordinary people's taxpayer money the ... Taiwanese separatist forces spend, no matter how many US weapons, it will not shake our resolve to solve the Taiwan problem. Or shake our firm will to realise the reunification of our motherland," said Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office. "Their actions are turning Taiwan into a powder keg and ammunition depot, aggravating the threat of war in the Taiwan Strait," the statement said.

Meanwhile on Sunday, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence said it tracked six Chinese navy ships near the island. *AP*

DRAFT FOR PAPER PUBLICATION
BEFORE THE CONSUMER REDRESSAL COMMISSION BANGALORE URBAN DISTRICT, AT BANGALORE
CC No. 352 /2022

Between
Shantanu Dutta. ....Complainant
And
WINSPARK INNOVATIONS LEARNING PVT LTD and others ....Opposite Parties
Opposite Party No 2-.
Eduvanz Financing Private Limited
Time Square Building, B-202 Marol Andheri East Mumbai, Maharashtra-400059

SUMMONS TO OPPOSITE PARTY No.2

WHEREAS, the Complainant above named have filed the above complaint against you and other opposite party to get relief regarding deficiency of service. you are above named is hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court either in person or through the pleader **on the 28th day of August 2023 at 10-30 AM** to defend the above case, failing which the matter will be heard ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this

By the order of Court Commission
Asst.Registrar-Cum-
Assistant Administrative Officer
Bengaluru Rural & Bengaluru Urban
1st Addl. District Consumer
Disputes Redressal Commission
1st Floor, BMTC 'B' Elock, TTMC Building, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027
Advocate for Complainant
Sucheta Majumdar Burman & Associates
Advocates.
97/2D Krishna Shine Building, MTK Reddy Complex Above SBI, Bank, First Floor, Bangalore-560037 M : 9742330757

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Maha Rashtra Apex Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Front Wing North Block, Manipal Centre 47, Dickenson Road, Bengaluru – 560 042
CIN-L85110KA1943PLC001177, Website: www.maharashtraapex.com, Email-mracl.ho@manipal.com, Tel: 080-40313131

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Sections 110 and 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the **"Act"**) including any statutory modification(s), clarification(s), substitution(s) or re- enactment(s) thereof for the time being in force, read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (the **"Management Rules"**) as amended, Secretarial Standard-2 on General Meetings (the "SS-2"), Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the **"SEBI Listing Regulations"**), guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (the "MCA"), Government of India, for holding general meetings/conducting postal ballot process through e-voting vide General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated 8th April 2020, 17/2020 dated 13th April 2020, 22/2020 dated 15th June 2020, 33/2020 dated 28th September 2020, 39/2020 dated 31st December 2020, 10/2021 dated 23rd June 2021 Circular No. 20/2021 dated 8th December, 2021,Circular No. 03/2022 dated 5th May, 2022 and Circular No. 11/2022 dated 28th December, 2022 (the "MCA Circulars") in view of COVID-19 pandemic and any other applicable laws and regulations, the Maha Rashtra Apex Corporation Limited (the **"Company"**) is seeking approval from the members for passing Ordinary Resolution for items as set out in the Postal Ballot Notice dated 28th JULY, 2023.

The notice is also available and can be downloaded from Company's website www.maharashtraapex.com, website of Stock Exchanges i.e www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and the website of CDSL www.cdslindia.com. A person who is not a Member as on Cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purpose only.

As per Section 108 of the Act, read with Rules and Regulation 44 of the SEBI LODR Regulations the Company has engaged services of Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL") to provide e-voting facility to its Members.

The e-voting period commences from 9.00 a.m (IST) on Monday, July 31, 2023 and ends at 5.00 p.m (IST) on Tuesday,29 August 2023. The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter. Voting rights of the Members shall be in proportion to the shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Cut-Off date. Communication of assent or dissent of the Members would only take place through the remote e-voting system.

Only the Members whose name appear on the register of members/list of beneficial Owners as received from the Depositories as on Cut-off date, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote-e-voting. Once a vote is casted by the members, the same cannot be changed subsequently. The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed M/s P M Agarwal & Co. Practicing Company Secretary as Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot process (through remote e-voting only) in a fair and transparent manner. The result of the Postal Ballot through remote –e-voting will be announced on 30th August, 2023 by Chairman or any other person authorized by the Board. The said results would also be available of the Company at www.maharashtraapex.com website of Stock Exchanges i.e www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

If you have any queries or issues regarding attending e-Voting from the CDSL e-Voting System, you can write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact at 022-23058738 and 022-23058542/43.

The Resolution if passed by the requisite majority through Postal Ballot will be deemed to have been passed on 29th August, 2023.

By the order of the Board,
For **MAHA RASHTRA APEX COPRORAION LTD.,**
Sd/-
(J M PANDAY)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

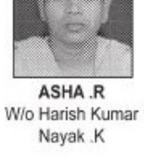
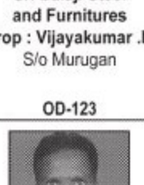
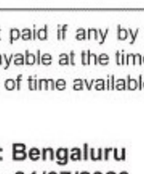
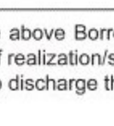
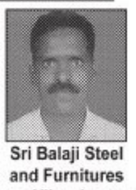
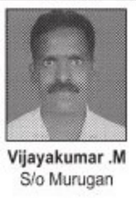
Place: Mumbai
Date: 28th July, 2023

Textile Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,
ESTD. : 1963
Administrative Office : Devanga Market, 2nd Floor, Sri Devara Dasimayya Road, (J.M. Road), Bengaluru-560 002.
Ph: 48521054; Email: textilecbl@gmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Appendix IV (Rule 8-(1))

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bengaluru Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in compliance of Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, in exercise of powers conferred Under Section 13(2) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amounts mentioned in the notice and interest thereon, outstanding in the loan accounts at Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Surety/Mortgagers in the following accounts having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Surety/Mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him Under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned herein below. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd., for amount and interest thereon & other charges.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Name of Surety	Description of the Property Mortgaged (With Boundaries)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Out/Standing as on the Date of Demand Notice Rs. Ps.
1	**MAIN BRANCH :**  **SUSHEELKUMAR .J** S/o Jayasheelan **IPL-618**	Shantha Kumari .P Shakeela J	Old Municipal No. 10/19, PID No. 86-7-10/19, Maruthi SevaNagara, Ward No.86, Bengaluru-560 010, measuring 16.6 ft. & 25 ft. **East by:** Property of Singram Singh, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Remaining portion of the Property belongs to Tulasiram Helan Premakumari & **South by:** Property of Masila Mani.	21-01-2009 & 10-10-2022	26-07-2023	RS. 31,98,682/-
2	**ADUGODI BRANCH :** **VENKATESH .B K** S/o Late Krishnappa **IPL-EMI-109**	Kavitha .G	All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 21 PID No. 67-34-21 situated at 1st Cross, Harijana Colony, Adugodi, Bengaluru-560030. Measuring East to West 10 ft./mts. North to South 15 ft/mts in all measuring 150 sft/mts and bounded on the the **East by:** Property of Papaiah, **West by:** 5 Feet Common Passage, **North by:** Property of Krishnappa, **South by:** Road.	06-02-2023	26-07-2023	RS. 6,01,556/-
3	 **HARISH KUMAR NAYAK .K** S/o Kariyappa K H **IPL-460**	Asha .R	All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No 30-1, PID No. 63-44-30-1 (Western Portion of Ground Floor having 500 Sq.ft of built-up area together with 201 Sq.ft of Undivided share right title and interest in the entire Property bearing Municipal No.30 (old Municipal No.155/30) situated at 4th Main Road, Adugodi Municipal Ward No. 63 Bengaluru-560030. Consisting of Ground, First, Second, Third Floor, Total area of the site is 1410 Sq.ft Rectangle in shape. Measuring East to West 47 ft. / mts. North to South 30 ft. / and bounded on the, **East by:** Road, **West by:** Water Flowing Channel & Private Property, **North by:** Old Private Property No. 156, **South by:** Old Private Property No. 154.	17-01-2023	26-07-2023	RS. 5,75,607/-
4	 **ASHA .R** W/o Harish Kumar Nayak .K **IPL-488**	 Harish Kumar Nayak .K	All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No 30-1, PID No. 63-44-30-1 (Western Portion of Ground Floor having 500 Sq.ft of built-up area together with 201 Sq.ft of Undivided share right title and interest in the entire Property bearing Municipal No.30 (old Municipal No.155/30) situated at 4th Main Road, Adugodi Municipal Ward No. 63 Bengaluru-560030. Consisting of Ground, First, Second, Third Floor, Total area of the site is 1410 Sq.ft Rectangle in shape. Measuring East to West 47 ft. / mts. North to South 30 ft. / and bounded on the, **East by:** Road, **West by:** Water Flowing Channel & Private Property, **North by:** Old Private Property No. 156, **South by:** Old Private Property No. 154.	18-01-2023	26-07-2023	RS. 4,46,323/-
5	**LAKSHMINARAYANA PURA BRANCH :**  **Sri Balaji Steel and Furnitures Prop : Vijayakumar .M** S/o Murugan **OD-123**	Subhashini	All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing Municipal No.19, Old No. 62/1, PID No.23-4-19, situated At 1st Main Road, Prakash Nagar, Bengaluru - 560021. **Measuring:** East to West 36 Feet, North to South 39+28/2 Feet. **Bounded On: East By:** Drain; **West By:** Road; **North By:** House of Kuppuswamy; **South By:** Road.	04-05-2022	26-07-2023	Rs.35,88,479.50 (AS ON 31.03.2022)
6	 **Vijayakumar .M** S/o Murugan **IPL-EMI-107**	Subhashini	All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing Municipal No.19, Old No. 62/1, PID No.23-4-19, situated At 1st Main Road, Prakash Nagar, Bengaluru - 560021. **Measuring:** East to West 36 Feet, North to South 39+28/2 Feet. **Bounded On: East By:** Drain; **West By:** Road; **North By:** House of Kuppuswamy; **South By:** Road.	24-11-2022	26-07-2023	Rs.76,03,873/- (AS ON 31.10.2022)

Amount paid if any by the above Borrowers after issuance of Possession Notice, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realization/settlement. Borrowers are advised to look into the provisions of Act 13(8) regarding the amount of time available to discharge the secured asset.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 31/07/2023

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd.

₹45,365 cr have been invested by foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) into the Indian equity market in July.

Taxpayers can file ITR even after deadline but with penalty

Tax department charges ₹1,000 penalty for filing delayed ITR if one's taxable income is up to ₹5 lakh and a penalty of ₹5,000 if the income is more than ₹5 lakh

SACHIN KUMAR @ Mumbai

WITH the deadline to file Income Tax Returns (ITR) ending on Monday, the country has witnessed a rush of taxpayers to file returns in the last few days. This year, the number of taxpayers missing the deadline to file ITRs is likely to be higher. With heavy rains and floods wreaking havoc in many parts of the country, many taxpayers will be unable to file ITRs before July 31. However, the returns can be filed even after the deadline, but taxpayers will have to pay the penalty.

Many taxpayers may miss ITR deadline

A recent survey has shown that over 14% of individual income taxpayers will be unable to meet the July 31 deadline for filing income tax returns. A survey conducted by LocalCircles found that individual taxpayers in flood-affected states, including Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi NCR, have been unable to file their income tax returns due to extreme weather conditions. The survey conducted by the community-based social media platform was based on over 12,000 responses from citizens located in 315 districts across the country.

There have been calls to extend the deadline but the government seems reluctant to give any relief to taxpayers in this regard. The Income Tax Department on Friday said that over 5.03 crore ITRs for income earned in 2022-23 fiscal have been filed as of July 27, out of which 88% have been verified electronically. About 5.83 crore income tax returns were filed as on July 31, 2022. This is much higher than the previous year as 4.83 crore returns were filed a year ago.

What to do if you miss the deadline

Taxpayers can file tax returns even after the deadline but they will have to pay the penalty. If the total income of an individual is not more than Rs 5 lakh, then the penalty applicable is ₹1,000 while the penalty for filing return after the deadline for individuals having income more than ₹5 lakh is ₹5,000. Filing late returns will make one ineligible for any special deduction.

"A taxpayer who has not filed a return at all within the due date, can also file return one by December 31, upon paying a certain fine, but without being eligible for special deduction. Where any taxpayer seeking to offer additional income (any pay additional taxes, without claiming any loss or deduction), can do so till March 2025, but upon being subjected to certain penal consequences," S Sriram, Partner, Lakshmikumaran and Sridharan attorneys told this newspaper. "A taxpayer who has already filed a return before a due date, who finds any mistake in the return can file a revised return or an updated return, without any significant interest or penalty liability, till December 31," he added. A person wilfully failing to furnish his tax return within the due date also faces the risk of imprisonment which may extend from three months to seven years, and a fine, said Sriram.

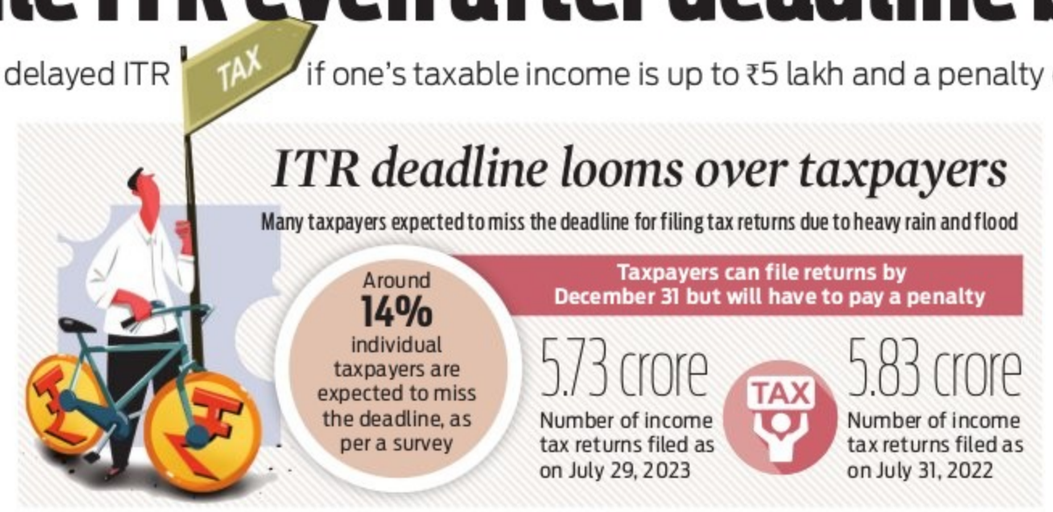
In addition to the late fee, any tax amount due will also incur penal interest until it is paid. "Interest shall be levied at 1% per month each for late filing of returns and for non-payment of advance tax, till the date of filing of the returns. Beyond December 31, the assessee would have the option to file updated returns only in the case if there is tax payable but additional tax of 25% is to be paid for updated returns filed till March 31, 2024 and 50% of additional tax thereafter till December 31, 2024," Divakar Vijayasarathy, Founder and CEO, DVS Advisors, told TNIE.

"The assessing officer shall also have the option to initiate assessment under best judgement method, in the case of returns not being filed or having filed not providing further details as requested by the assessing officer. Penalties up to 50% could be levied for underreporting of income and up to 200% for misreporting of income," he added.

Any taxpayer not filing his/her return within the due date would not be eligible to carry forward the losses. According to experts, losses can only be carried forward to future years if the return is filed by July 31, with the exception of house property losses. This helps taxpayers in reducing their tax liability from any future income.

"Though the assessee can file returns after the due date of July 31, the same comes with certain consequences. The most important of the same being that the losses if any (other loss from house property) shall not be allowed to be carried forward and set off in the subsequent years," Divakar Vijayasarathy added.

"Considering the financial impact of losses not being allowed to be carried forward, interest and penalty coupled with risk of prosecution in extreme cases, the assessees should strive to file the returns on time by taking advantage of the improved e filing experience," he added.


TAX
ITR deadline looms over taxpayers
Many taxpayers expected to miss the deadline for filing tax returns due to heavy rain and flood
Around 14% individual taxpayers are expected to miss the deadline, as per a survey
Taxpayers can file returns by December 31 but will have to pay a penalty
5.73 crore
Number of income tax returns filed as on July 29, 2023
TAX
5.83 crore
Number of income tax returns filed as on July 31, 2022

MONEY MATTERS

INSTANT SETTLEMENTS ARE GOOD, BUT EDUCATION NEEDED

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THERE is a flurry of activity in stock market regulation. Madhabi Puri Buch, chairperson at the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the stock market regulator, said there was a plan to introduce instant trading settlement of trades. A settlement is when you, as a buyer, receive shares in your demat account or, as a seller, get money to your bank account. Currently, stock exchanges settle trades the next day.

Instant trade settlement is the ultimate level of financial market efficiency. In the stock market vocabulary, that is 'T+0'. The US stock markets follow a T+2 cycle where trades are settled two days later. The US Securities Exchange Commission will introduce a 'T+1' system in May 2024.

Why will it be transformational

A lot of money will be saved. The answer is that simple. There is a risk to trade and settlement. If the buyer fails to pay up, the settlement guarantee mechanism settles the trade. The money is recovered later.

Similarly, if, as a seller, your demat accounts do not have shares, the trade is settled by your broker on your behalf. Later, you have to pay up for the difference in the price and compensate your broker. If trades are settled instantly, the risk to the trading system is reduced. However, it does not go away. You may still not have the money or shares to put up. Brokers will still require you to maintain adequate funds before you execute trades. Ms Buch already announced that reducing trading settlement cycles to T+1 has resulted in savings of thousands of crores of rupees. There is no reason why more cannot be saved.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

If you have looked up your stockbroking services, brokers give you instant cash into your account after you sell your shares. That is probably applicable to the most liquid shares in the market and offered only by brokers willing to use their capital to guarantee that payment. If stock markets offer an instant settlement, all those exotic features that brokers with a strong balance sheet offer would become redundant. Yes, there is research offered by top brokers. It tells you the right time to buy or sell shares. However, very few of you invest in equity markets to bother about value-added services offered by brokers. As such, for retail investors like you, it is a nice-to-have feature.

If you are a regular investor in equity markets or invest through mutual funds, you can expect money to hit your account faster if you sell shares or bonds. Similarly, shares or bonds would be credited to your demat account if you are a buyer. The process of mutual fund purchases and redemptions can also be expedited. Mutual funds take longer than stock exchanges to process your redemption or investment requests. While money goes out of your account, the credit of mutual fund units takes time.

Similarly, money redemption after you sell mutual fund units takes time. The instant settlement in the stock market will change all of that. You will get money in and out faster than today.

The instant settlement will make India attractive to institutional investors. There is a good chance that domestic and foreign institutional activity may see a big jump. India's stock markets will have an excellent international standing and attract more money. Considering the latest outlook for India's growth, Indian equity and debt could turn into an attractive asset class.

While all of that is fine, the government must focus on encouraging individuals to invest regularly and for the long term. With merely 2-3% of the population investing in the equity markets, it is not a significant achievement for a nation with 140 crore people. You must adopt a 'buy and hold' strategy for your equity investments to create meaningful wealth. There is a difference between stock market trading and investing. While trading is for the adrenaline and hope of a quick profit, it is risky. Also, with an instant trade settlement, day trading may lose relevance. Your focus must be on investing to benefit from the long-term appreciation in share prices.

MONEY-WISE

DO YOU NEED AN ADVISOR?

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

LET me start by saying that I do not know any investor with serious money (upwards of $ 1 million) who works on a DIY(do it yourself) basis. Just none. And the number of people I know in this set should be in excess of 100. That is not insignificant. I am not saying that they do not exist, but I have not yet met them.

With a 9-year bull run, people think that they can manage their own portfolios, beat the market, and achieve their financial goals. I do know that there is a huge gap between what people say and what they achieve. Yesterday I was talking to an IAS officer about his portfolio – and he realised some of his mistakes chasing returns. Sometimes it is necessary to talk about risk and sometimes about return expectations. Research can suggest a lot of things that a retail investor should do, but not all investors can invest rationally.

In the real world, an investor's financial situation, attitude towards risk taking, and beliefs about the future direction of financial markets are always changing. The same investor who invested rationally at the age of 30, may turn irrational at the age of 40. Sudden shifts in their job, health, or children's behaviour – are all factors that can tempt them to make poorly timed investment decisions that are based solely on emotions, not logic. One wrong or bad move can wipe out years of hard work.

People who have never managed other people's money have no business saying "I can do it, so can you". Sure, it is tempting, but not everybody should attempt DIY. I know of some DIY advocates who have consistently underperformed the market, but hey beating the market is not what they set out to do. They set out to do something else. So if your goal is to beat the market or just meet your financial requirements see if you can do it yourself!

So when I asked a few HNIs what their investor does for them…there was some nice learning:

- Trust and Communication: People with a 'don't trust anybody' kind of a mental frame cannot seek help. However, when a person is financially successful, he/ she understands how an advisor can communicate well to avoid the behaviour gap. I don't see how an app can ever control this behaviour gap. I have been able to talk to clients and cool them down. I have been able to keep people in equities far beyond what 'theory' says they should be in equities. I have been able to make clients more oriented towards happiness and relaxation than worry about the extra 1% return in a scheme. I have been able to talk to big investors about being in funds / schemes with lesser standard deviation. I have moved money from a mutual fund to a fixed deposit when the client's tax structure changed. No, an app cannot do that. That is clear.

- Ability to separate the grain from the chaff and the ability to see the news items in context of his goals. It is but natural to watch television or read some articles in the pink papers and get excited. It is necessary to keep calm and realise that everyone who writes may not have experience, knowledge, training or education in finance, human behaviour, law, and yes personal finance is now the most expensive hobby.

- Having an automated or well thought of process and not just some ad hoc guess work!

2.7 million income tax returns filed on Sunday

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

As July 31 is the last date for filing returns for individuals and HUFs, the e-filing website of the income tax department witnessed more than 1.3 crore logins by 6:30 pm on Sunday.

According to the income tax department, about 26.76 lakh ITRs had been filed on Sunday till 6.30 pm. More than 6 crore ITRs were filed till July 30.

There was a rush seen on Sunday for filing returns as tax professionals and Chartered Accountants said that there was almost no chance of an extension of the deadline.

The tax department in a tweet on Sunday evening urged all those who hadn't filed ITR for AY 2023-24, to file their ITR at the earliest to avoid last minute rush.

According to the Income Tax website, around 5 core returns were verified while over 3 crore ITRs were processed as on July 29.

Recently, chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Nitin Gupta had said in an event that of those who filed income tax returns, about 7% were first-time filers.

NO. OF RETURN FILERS

2022-23	7.40 cr
2021-22	6.94 cr
2020-21	6.72 cr
2019-20	6.45 cr

According to a recent finance ministry submission in parliament, 7.4 crore tax payers had filed returns in 2022-23 and 6.94 core had filed returns in the year before, showing an increase of 6.18 % in the number of persons filing ITRs in 2022-23 as compared to persons in 2021-22.

There has been greater scrutiny of income tax returns this year.

Speaking at the Income Tax Day event earlier this month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that about one lakh notices were sent in cases where income was found to be over ₹50 lakh.

Reliance General gets ₹200 cr equity

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

RELIANCE General Insurance Company has raised ₹200 crore by issuing equity shares to Reliance Capital Limited, its promoter. This capital infusion is aimed at pursuing new business opportunities for growth and securing the company's position amongst the market leaders, the company said.

With the freshly infused capital, there will be significant impetus on achieving strategic objectives, enabling the company to capitalise on emerging opportunities in the insurance sector, expanding product offerings and reaching new customers through innovative initiatives. Rakesh Jain, CEO of Reliance General Insurance, said, "This strategic decision is a testament to our commitment to staying at the forefront of the industry and delivering superior value to our customers. With this capital infusion, we are well-equipped to seize opportunities, and continue providing insurance solutions."

Sustainable development goals provide $90 tn biz opportunity

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ACHIEVING the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate action needs an investment of about $5-6 trillion, which in turn will create business opportunities of about $90 trillion, G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant said in an interaction with the media recently.

He was addressing the media after the completion of a 2-day G20 policy workshop on 'A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy' in New Delhi.

Kant reiterated that there is no shortage of resources with around $350 trillion funds available globally for investment, of which $150 trillion are aligned with Institutional Funds.

He, however, pointed out that the challenge is lack of adequate bankable project pipeline, and emphasised on the need for a Global Project Accelerator Fund in order to de-risk projects.

Niti Aayog vice-chairman Suman Bery also reiterated that there is no shortage of funds for sustainable growth for emerging countries, but project preparation and data remain a big challenge.

'Global growth will come from emerging markets'

Amitabh Kant cited IMF data saying that 80% of the global growth is going to come from emerging markets, and there is a need to alter the global financial architecture and the flow of resources to provide better impetus to this growth. He said there is no shortage of resources.

Amitabh Kant cited IMF data saying that 80% of the global growth is going to come from emerging markets, and therefore, there is a need to alter the global financial architecture and the flow of resources to provide better impetus to this growth.

Emphasising the role of NITI Aayog in enabling the green transition, CEO, Niti Aayog, BVR Subrahmanyam, said that NITI has a fundamental role in creating ecosystems that facilitate the adoption of frontier technologies.

He cited the successful example of transformation in the electric vehicle space where NIiti Aayog played a pioneering role.

Further he highlighted that the role of States in the implementation of green energy projects will be pivotal and Niti Aayog will provide the required support to States in this endeavour.

The 2-day G20 policy workshop was organised by Niti Aayog in collaboration with International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Global Development Network (GDN).

EQUITY

Govt to get significant stake in HPCL

PTI @ New Delhi

Five years after it exited the company, the government is set to get a significant stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) as it looks to infuse equity in fuel retailers that lost money on selling petrol and diesel at discounted rates last year, officials said.

The government had in the annual Budget for 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024 fiscal) announced ₹30,000 crore of capital support to state-run fuel retailers -- IOC, HPCL and BPCL -- to support their energy transition and net-zero initiatives. In June, the government asked IOC and BPCL to launch rights issues, and advised HPCL to make a preferential share allotment to the government. Board of IOC earlier this month approved raising up to ₹22,000 crore by inviting existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares in the company.

Verstappen wins Belgian GP to extend lead

Defending Formula One champion Max Verstappen emphatically won the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday for an eighth straight win and 10th overall of a crushingly dominant season. He finished 22.3 seconds ahead of teammate Sergio Perez to give Red Bull and easy 1-2. It moved Verstappen ominously closer to a third straight world title.

Lack of consistency & role clarity continue

The team management might want to reflect and reboot soon as they try to test their bench strength before WC

GOMESH S @ Chennai

IT'S that time of the World Cup cycle. The period where every move, tactic and ploy a team makes goes under the radar, where every game is an opportunity to iron out the wrinkles in the combinations and pool of players before going into the global event. When the Rohit Sharma-led Indian side landed in the Caribbean that is what was expected of them as well.

Two games into the three-match series (they have lost the second after winning the first), it seems like they have made no headway at all. If anything, it almost feels like they have turned the clock back to 2019. After the semifinal defeat against New Zealand, the then captain, Virat Kohli had said that it is hard to admit when "45 minutes of bad cricket put us out of the World Cup". However, there was more to it. And the most important of all was the mismanagement of the No. 4 slot in the batting order. Since 2017, they had used 12 players in the position before leaving the one (Ambati Rayudu) who batted the most there for the World Cup.

Now, here is a stat for you. Since January 2021, India have used the most number of players (9) at No. 4 along with Netherlands and Sri Lanka (among the ten teams in the 2023 World Cup). They also top the list in the ongoing WC year, using six batters in 11 games. And that is not even the worst. None of it has worked. India's No. 4 average of 16.20 is the lowest among the ten teams. While injuries to KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer — the three who were expected to slot in the middle-order followed by all-rounders Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja — the Indian management sure hasn't helped themselves in how they have been trying to give opportunities to players. In the ongoing Windies tour, Ishan Kishan, who is supposedly the back-up keeper for Rahul, has been made to open, indicating that he might be the reserve opener. Suryakumar Yadav, struggling to crack the ODI format, batted at No. 3 in the first game before moving to No. 6. Sanju Samson who did not start in first ODI was made to bat at 3, with Kohli and Sharma resting, when he is not going to get to bat in the position should he make the cut for the WC. Axar Patel was sent in at 4, which actually comes in handy to take on spinners, with a left-right combination in middle-order but no one knows how long that experiment will last as well.

West Indies beat India comfortably in the second ODI, where the visitors rested Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, on Saturday | AP

India's No. 4s in 2023

Player	Mat	Runs	Avg
KL Rahul	1	32	32
Shreyas	3	94	31.33
Ishan	3	30	15
Hardik	1	5	5
Axar	1	1	1
Suryakumar	2	0	0

*India have lowest average for ODI No. 4 in 2023 - **16.2***

Sanju Samson ODI record

Pos	Mat	Runs	Avg	SR
3	2	55	27.50	84.61
5	5	104	52	89.65
6	4	180	90	117.64

The Rahul Dravid-coached side has left, not just the followers, but also some former cricketers confused. Take the case of Samson, India cricketer Abhinav Mukund, who is an expert on Jio Cinema, feels that the Samson should be given a chance in a position where he will get a longer rope. "I don't understand where the Indian team sees Sanju Samson. I feel he warrants more chances that the chances he has had but if he does, it should be in a position where he is comfortable batting in. Maybe, No. 4 or 5 you can try him out as a option incase Shreyas isn't fit and that is where I thought after the first wicket went I thought they would still send Suryakumar at 3 and maybe send Samson at No. 4 because Shreyas is the man in question. Now, it feels like they are trying Sanju at 3 or 4 as a top order batter and they want a left-right combination to go in middle overs," Abhinav said on Jio Cinema during the rain-break on Saturday.

Former national selector Saba Karim, who is also an expert on the show, agreed. "I feel that No. 4-5, if you want to keep him (Samson) as a back-up middle-order batter in terms of your World Cup campaign then utilize him at that position, here you are confusing everybody," he said. "It's good to see him (Kishan) getting runs up the order but if KL Rahul comes in the side and if you have him (Kishan) in your squad, will you play him as your opener? You will not because Shubman Gill and Rohit open the innings. Then if KL is not fit that is the time when Kishan will come in the XI, and if that is the case then why can't we have him bat at No. 5 or 4, whatever it may be. You can't have him open the innings, even if he gets runs how does it matter? Because eventually he is not going to play as an opener in the World Cup."

However, despite the defeat or the concerns, coach Dravid doesn't seem to be worried and said that they are looking at the "bigger picture". "We need to build some of the players, we need to get some answers for specific positions considering some of the situations we are in," said Dravid after the second ODI. "We are not too worried about the opinion of people. It's just that these are the talented boys we have in the country. They have all performed and it's up to them to take the opportunities."

This movie isn't new to Indian cricket. It's run and re-run several times in the last decade before every ICC tournament. Taking opportunities might not be as easy as said, especially when you are playing out of the role you'd have to. As a former captain himself, Dravid knows it too. And if he and Sharma do not want to be on the sour end of another "45 minutes of bad cricket" in November, they would have to reflect and reboot immediately. After all, they just have ten days on the field, at best, their playing XI and back-ups sorted before the big picture gets screened.

Despite numbers, Brij Bhushan plays waiting game

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

BRIJ Bhushan Sharan Singh might have numbers but they are not the only factor to predict the fate of the upcoming Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) election scheduled on August 12. Given the tricky situation, the sidelined WFI chief is in, these numbers, however, in all likelihood may help him wriggle out of the mess.

The same was on display on Sunday, the eve of the last date of submission of nominations for election to the returning officer Justice MM Kumar, retired chief justice of the J&K High Court, in person. The BJP member of parliament from Kaiserganj, Uttar Pradesh, held a meeting of his loyalists at a five-star hotel in New Delhi. Out of 25 affiliated state associations, representatives from 21 units attended the meeting. Representatives from the newly-recognised Assam body, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Gujarat skipped the meeting. With two executive members from each association eligible to cast their votes, if the election happens, Brij Bhushan has 42 votes as of Sunday to make sure his candidates win even if he is not eligible to contest. Despite holding all the aces, Brij Bhushan and Co though didn't reveal their potential candidates as it is learnt that a compromise formula is being contemplated keeping all the stakeholders including the protesting wrestlers in view. "Brij Bhushan may meet Home Minister Amit Shah in this regard. A final list of candidates can be prepared only after the meeting. So it's safe to say, the candidates for various posts can be known by midnight or Monday morning," one of the office-bearers from a state unit who attended the meeting, told this daily.

As the protesting wrestlers were assured by the Home Minister in the past and a few representatives from the government like Prem Chand Lochab (Gujarat), Railway Sports Promotion Board secretary and Devender Kadian (Assam), a hotelier and BJP leader from Haryana, were included in the electoral college, chances of post sharing are high. Besides them, Haryana wrestler Anita Sheoran, who is a witness in the sexual harassment case against Brij Bhushan, is also in the electoral college from Odisha. What makes the process complicated is active involvement of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) along with Sports Ministry. "The SAI is taking keen interest and even tried to influence a Brij Bhushan's loyalist from South India," claimed an insider.

The existing situation means a clearer picture could emerge only after withdrawal of candidatures. "Nominations are expected to be filed by both factions. A clearer picture will emerge on the day of withdrawal of candidatures," said a source. "Brij Bhushan has numbers but still he or his faction did not raise objections on names included in the electoral college apparently against the WFI constitution. It clearly reflects the influence a third party is having on the ongoing process. Numbers will not be enough as other factors have to be kept in mind. Posts can be shared but again a key post or two may go to the rival faction," added the source.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

England's Stuart Broad (Centre) gets a guard of honour in his last Test match | AFP

Australia cruise to 135/0 before rain stops play

AGENCIES @ Brisbane

PLAY has been abandoned for the day at the Oval on Sunday with Australia needing 249 more runs with all wickets intact to beat England in the fifth Ashes Test, setting up a potentially thrilling finish to a classic series.

Rain had already frustrated both teams on the fourth day with Australia going to an early tea — which turned into stumps — on 135-0 in their second innings after 38 overs, chasing a target of 384 after quickly dismissing England for 395 in the morning.

There was still time for a swashbuckling six from Stuart Broad, who announced Saturday night he is retiring from cricket after this match.

At stumps, David Warner (58 not out) and Usman Khawaja (69 not out) were at the crease. Holder Australia leads the five-Test series 2-1 and have already retained the urn.

England pacer Mark Wood was finally introduced after lunch for the 33rd over of the innings and Australia brought up two milestones. Warner followed his opening partner to fifty, reaching the milestone off 90 balls in his final innings in England, having signalled his intention to retire in January.

Brief scores: England 283 & 395 in 81.5 ovs (Root 91, Bairstow 78; Starc 4/100, Murphy 4/131) vs Australia 295 & 135/0 in 38 ovs (Warner 58, Khawaja 69).

Minds without fear: The ultimate success of UTT

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

WITH a roaring Pune crowd behind him, Harmeet Desai did something that none one could do in the entire fourth season of Ultimate Table Tennis. He ended the winning streak of the current World No 29, Benedikt Duda, in a comeback victory to help his side, Goa Challengers, beat Chennai Lions.

Two days before the final showdown, Puneri Paltan's Manush Shah stunned World No. 17 Quadri Aruna of U Mumba to see his side reach the semi-final. These are not just the wins on the board for the respective teams, this is a massive win for the UTT and for Indian Table Tennis. Shah admits it was a surreal experience for him. "That result (beating Aruna) gave me a sense that anything is possible. We are getting better and better every single day. That is a good sign for Indian table tennis and the young upcoming players," Shah told this daily.

Goa players celebrate after beating Chennai in the UTT Season 4 final | UTT MEDIA

19-year-old Payas Jain, the only Indian player to clinch three medals in the Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championship, was part of the Chennai Lions, who ended up runners up of the tournament. Throughout the tournament, he felt like this was his baptism of fire at the most competitive level.

"I have learned a lot from this season. When you are watching it on TV, it's different, but when you are part of that environment with the team, it's a different energy altogether. After the junior level, I want to achieve more at the senior level and the experience of UTT is something that will help me. Our captain, Sharath Kamal has been a great motivator for me. I have seen him play for the longest time. Now he is like my friend," Jain added.

Commonwealth Games doubles Gold Medalist, Sreeja Akula, believes the awareness about table tennis has increased, which has ultimately helped the financial side of the sport as well. "The government is already doing a lot for the sport, but there are private sponsors now who are coming forward to sponsor the individual needs of players," Akula added.

Kamal, who has been the face of Indian Table Tennis over the years values the importance of the league not just for the young players, but for the experienced players as well. With the Asian Games ahead of them in Hangzhou, the Indian contingent is ready to add more medals to their tally, and the experience of the UTT will definitely come in handy for them.

The author is in Pune on invitation from UTT

IOC requests Randhir to continue as OCA acting president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) has asked Randhir Singh to continue working as acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The IOC issued a letter in this regard on Sunday.

"Following the IOC Executive Board decision of 27 June 2023 in relation to the provisional suspension of the IOC Member in Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, and in particular the point relating to a further investigation into the OCA elections by the IOC, I would like to clarify certain points relating to the IOC's position in this regard. Seeing as the IOC investigation is likely not to be concluded before October 2023 and since the IOC has not recognised the election of Sheikh Talal Al-Sabah, the IOC will continue to work with you as OCA's acting President and with the OCA Executive Board that was in place prior to the Bangkok General Assembly," read the letter signed by James Macleod, director of Olympic Solidarity and head of National Olympic Committee (NOC) relations at the IOC.

Singh has also been asked to direct the OCA administration in all matters, including the calling of any executive boards, general assemblies and any other meetings needed for the governance of the OCA.

"Following the outcome of the IOC investigation, we will work with you to implement the next steps of a roadmap to ensure the continued functioning of the OCA according to the basic principles of good governance," the letter read further.

EXPRESS READ

Jr Asian C'ship: Gogoi wins 61kg

GREATER NOIDA: India's Siddhanta Gogoi clinched the men's 61kg junior title while Gyaneshwari Yadav and Koyel Bar secured silver medals in the women's 49kg event at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships here on Sunday.

Central beat North by 8 wickets

PUDUCHERRY: Shivam Chaudhary and Yash Dubey slammed fine fifties as Central Zone defeated North East Zone by eight wickets in a round-robin match of the Deodhar Trophy here on Sunday. Meanwhile, Mayank Agarwal and Sai Sudharsan helped South Zone beat East Zone by five wickets.

Aditi slips as Boutier keeps lead

EVIAN LES BAIN (FRANCE): Aditi Ashok had another rough round at a Major as she slipped to Tied-57th after carding a 3-over 74 on day three of the Amundi Evian Championship. France's Celine Boutier carded a 4-under 67 to maintain her second round lead.

Vanegas pulls off a last-minute heist as Colombia upset Germany

AGENCIES @ Sydney

MANUELA Vanegas scored in the seventh minute of stoppage time as Colombia upset Germany 2-1 at the Women's World Cup on Sunday. The defender headed in to settle a thrilling game and put her country on the brink of advancing to the knockout stage.

Alexandra Popp had scored an 89th-minute penalty and seemed to have earned two-time champion Germany a 1-1 draw after 18-year-old Linda Caicedo had struck a stunning opener for Colombia. But Vanegas came up with a late twist to huge celebrations from Colombia fans who dominated the Sydney Football Stadium crowd. The Germans thought they'd secured a point after Colombia goalkeeper Catalina Perez was penalized for bringing down Lena Oberdorf in the box. Popp, who scored twice in her country's 6-0 rout of Morocco in their opening game of the tournament, fired straight down the middle to level the game. That had disappointed the crowd, which passionately cheered Colombia on throughout and erupted after Caicedo's goal in the 52nd.

RESULTS: South Korea 0-1 Morocco, Norway 6-0 Philippines, Switzerland 0-0 New Zealand, Germany 1-2 Colombia.

Today's matches

Japan vs Spain, 12.30 PM; **Costa Rica vs Zambia**, 12.30 PM; **Republic of Ireland vs Nigeria**, 3.30 PM; **Canada vs Australia**, 3.30 PM

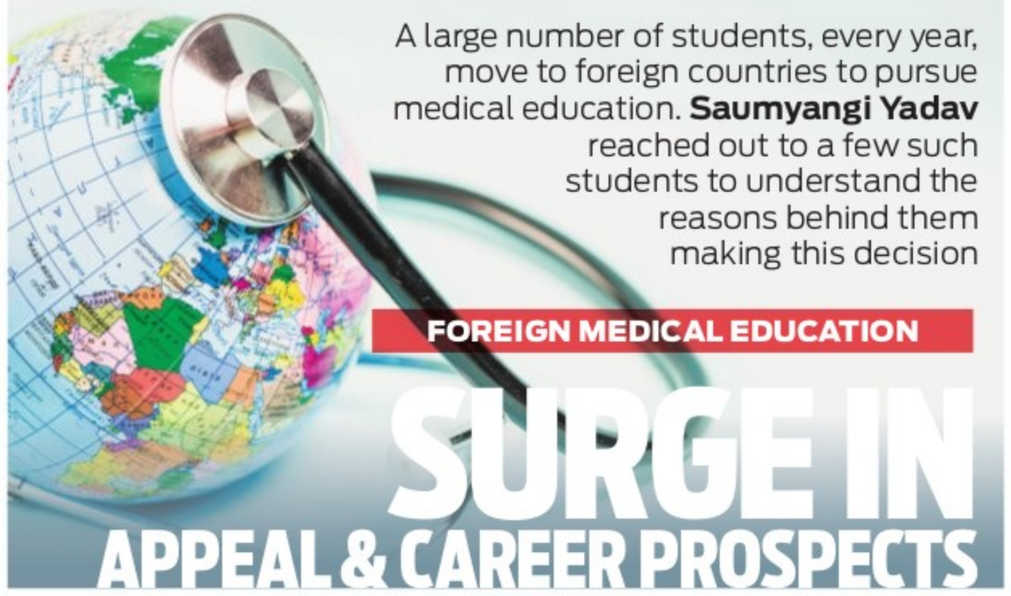
Live on DD Sports and FanCode

Colombia's Manuela Vanegas (L) celebrates scoring her team's second goal against Germany during the FIFA Women's World Cup clash in Sydney on Saturday | AFP

The Real Madrid teenager had suffered a health scare earlier in the week, but produced a moment of moment of magic to score her second of the tournament. It was all the more special coming after she'd dropped to the ground holding her chest in training during the week. Collecting the ball from just inside the area after a corner, she worked her way into space by bewildering two German defenders in a fast-stepping move before lashing a shot into the top corner. Caicedo, followed by her teammates, charged toward the corner to get closer to the crowd as it went wild.

Norway and Switzerland enter knockouts

Sophie Roman Haug's hat trick kick-started Norway's dormant offense and sparked a 6-0 blowout win over the Philippines that moved the Norwegians into to the knockout stages. Meanwhile, New Zealand ended with a 0-0 tie against Switzerland and became the first host nation to be eliminated in group play in tournament history. Switzerland advanced to the round of 16.



A large number of students, every year, move to foreign countries to pursue medical education. **Saumyangi Yadav** reached out to a few such students to understand the reasons behind them making this decision

FOREIGN MEDICAL EDUCATION

SURGE IN APPEAL & CAREER PROSPECTS

Education abroad and loans often go hand-in-hand. So, is availing a medical education a good idea? Let's ask experts and students

Every year, the number of students opting to got to foreign countries to pursue higher education is increasing. According to the latest data from the Ministry of Education, more than 7.70 lakh Indian students opted to pursue their academics abroad in 2022, setting the highest record in the last six years.

With a limited number of medical seats available in India and an overwhelming number of aspirants; various countries such as China, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Australia and others have emerged as popular destinations for medical education due to their considerably affordable costs.

So, what else attracts students to pursue medical education in other countries and how does it differ from medical education in India? What drives them away from here?

Cut-throat competition

The students we spoke to highlighted that the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test—Undergraduate (NEET UG) cut-off has been skyrocketing, forcing students to give up on their dreams to pursue medical education in India.

"Many students cannot get the medical seat of their choice unless they opt for drop years. Then, the students wonder why they should waste so many years when they can go abroad for the same course. Many students, who did not take coaching in Classes XI and XII, know that they will not be able to score enough in just one attempt as the competition is high," explained Shubhi Bajpai, a first-year medical student at Bashkir State Medical University, Russia.

The students also highlighted that taking up coaching for NEET preparation has become extremely common leading to more competition.

Most students invest up to ₹2-3 lakh in coaching including housing, food and so on during their drop year while they can get into a college in foreign countries with that money, Shubhi added.

Affordable education

While there is cut-throat competition for government medical seats in India, private medical seats are unaffordable. Private medical seats in India charge between ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore as tuition fees for five and half years. On the other hand, many countries, like those in Asia and Eastern Europe, offer seats in reputed medical colleges for half the cost. Countries like Ukraine, Russia and Georgia charge ₹25-30 lakh as tuition fees for a six-year-long MBBS course, as per reports.

"Paying crores for a six-year course is not affordable for all hence, they choose to go abroad," explained Anushka Pant, another student from Bashkir State Medical University in Russia and a former student of Kharkiv National Medical University, Ukraine.

Anushka added that while the cost of living can add up to be quite expensive in foreign countries, it is manageable.

"Regardless of whether you have scored 300 marks in NEET or 550, the cost of getting into a medical college in India remains exorbitant, requiring around ₹1 crore. This steep expense drives many students to consider studying abroad, where the fees are comparatively lower, typically around ₹4 lakh per year, amounting to approximately ₹25 lakh for the entire six-year course duration," she says.

Quality infrastructure

Students currently studying in foreign medical institutes highlighted that these colleges offer experienced and renowned faculty and good infrastructure, often better than those available in India.

Ganga B Nair, an MBBS student from Dali University, China, expressed, "Infrastructure and other facilities provided by Chinese institutes are incomparable. China clearly gives importance to its health sector and it can be seen in their hospital facilities and medical and technological developments."

Ganga added that all the faculty members are highly experienced and well-versed in English and thus, there is no language barrier.

"Ukraine and Russia boast exceptional infrastructure, which impacts the quality of education, particularly in practical courses like MBBS. Students can access such excellent infrastructure at nearly half the cost compared to other options," added Anushka Pant.

Here versus there

Another question that comes up when we talk about foreign medical education is how it compares to academics here.

Ganga shared, "In China, I find that the curriculum is almost similar to that in India since China is our neighbouring country and Epidemiology is quite similar for both countries. The course length in China is five plus one year of internship which is six months more than that in India. There are quite a lot of Indian students in my university, currently around 90."

Students highlighted that obtaining a licence to practice medicine in India might be challenging for these students due to differences in curriculum.

Roshni Bahri, a student at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, said, "The curriculum is comprehensive, supported by knowledgeable faculty. The country has favourable policies and a robust healthcare system, making it easier to pursue a career here and potentially transition to other countries. While it can be challenging for foreign medical graduates to obtain a licence to practice in India, the experience and skills gained abroad can make them well-suited for international career paths."

HEAR IT FROM A FOREIGN INSTITUTE

Dr Susan Madden, Associate Professor in Medical Education, Norwich Medical School, England, explained, "One common mindset among Indian students is the belief that studying abroad can offer better career prospects and opportunities for personal growth. They often view international education as a pathway to acquiring global perspectives, gaining exposure to diverse cultures and building a strong professional network"

Planning medical education abroad? Take experts' advice

WHILE the idea of low-cost medical education in foreign countries seems to be a perfect backup plan for medical aspirants, experts seem to have a different take on the idea.

According to data provided by the Ministry of Finance, around 4.61 lakh students availed educational loans from Public Sector Banks for studying abroad in the last 10 years. Out of this, only 42,364 availed of loans for studying medicine abroad. Experts advise that several factors need to be considered before one decides to go abroad for higher education. Most importantly, monetary factors.

Opting for loan?

Experts and loan providers explained that getting funds for an MBBS degree abroad is highly unlikely, mainly owing to the low employability of foreign medical graduates.

Damini Mahajan, CEO and Co-founder, WeMakeScholars.com, an education finance platform, said, "We get many applications from students aspiring to study MBBS in Georgia, South America, Philippines, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and China for an average quantum of around ₹30 lakh, which includes both living and tuition fees.

However, even for this amount, we find it difficult to get lenders. This is because most lenders have these countries on their negative list. Moreover, the chances of clearing the screening exam are low, so banks are not keen to offer loans due to low employability."

Prashant A Bhonsle, Founder and CEO of Kuhoo, an online education loan platform said that for students, it is important to factor in the rate of rupee depreciation.

"It plays a major role as your fee might increase over time as the rupee depreciates," he explained.

What students say?

Even students who have pursued medical education abroad say that financing through loans can be challenging.

Dr Koshal Kishore Vedi, who graduated from Yangzhou University, China in 2019, is one such student.

"I took a loan in 2014 during my admission with the help of university agents. I was told that the interest would be applied after I graduate in 2019, but right from the first day of classes, the interest was being calculated, and I had no idea. I had taken a loan of ₹20 lakh. Now, even after paying an EMI of ₹60,000 each month, I am in the bank's debt for ₹34 lakh. Many of my friends are in similar situations. The interest was charged during the pandemic years as well," he shared.

Vedi said that it is better to fund the tuition fee personally or with the help of family and friends instead of taking loans or falling for the words of agents.

Manikandan who pursued his medical education at Kursk State Medical University, Russia says that his father is a farmer and with great difficulty, they arranged for a loan. "I did not have an option," he says. And since most students like to come back and work in India, as Manikandan did, loan repayment becomes even more cumbersome.

IN THE PAST 10 YEARS

- Total Indian students applied for loan: 4,61,017
- Indian students availed education loans to study abroad in 10 years, with over
- Total number of Indian students seeking loan for medical studies: 42,364 out of 4,61,017

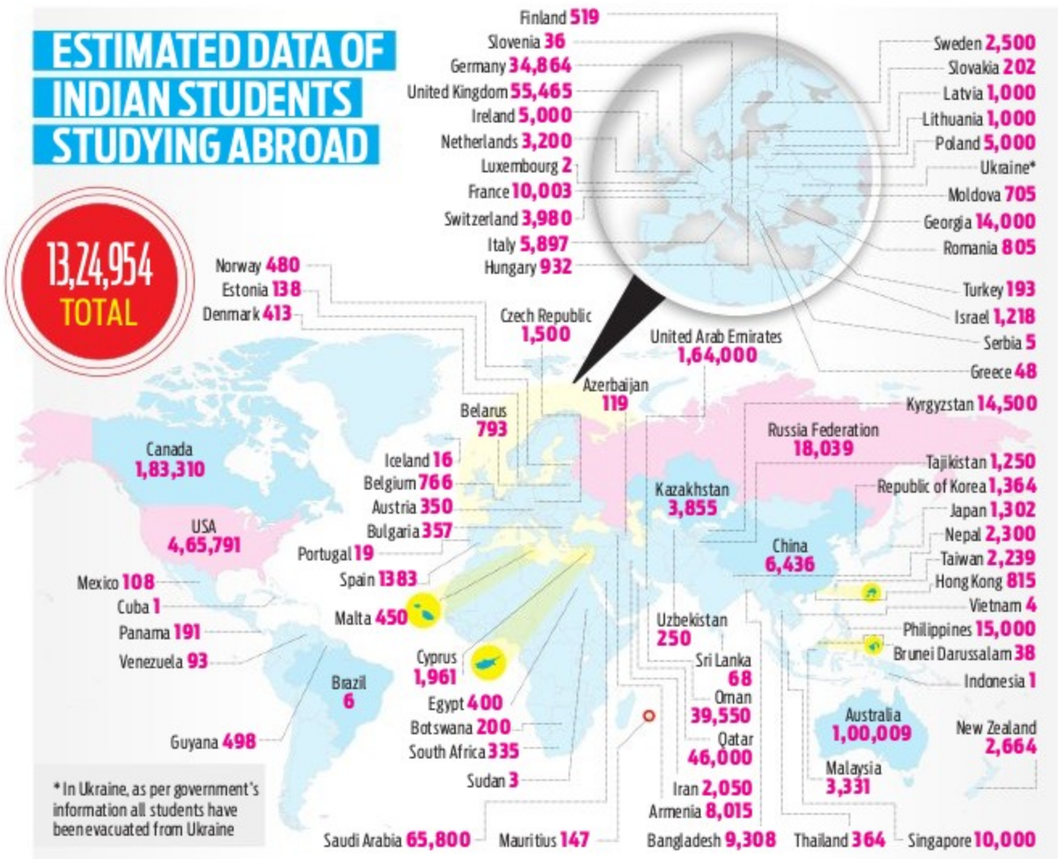
Source: Ministry of Finance

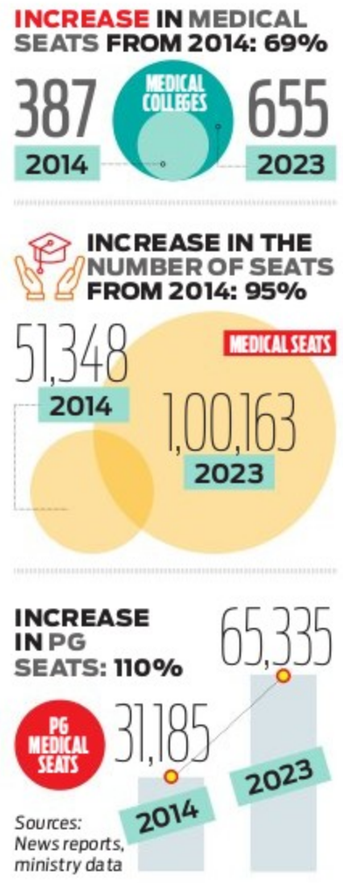
LOANS DISBURSED FOR MEDICINE DEGREE

2018-2019	₹237.13 crore
2019-2020	₹298.97 crore
2020-2021	₹243.64 crore*
2021-2022	₹289.82 crore*

*Pandemic trend Graphical representation

Total loan amount disbursed in last 10 years: **Rs 1,790 crore**





Sources: News reports, ministry data

WEIGHING THE OPTIONS

When government colleges are not an option, and you find yourself contemplating whether to enroll in a private medical college or explore opportunities abroad, we provide you with a comprehensive list of pros and cons for each, making the decision-making process easier

MEDICAL COLLEGES OUTSIDE INDIA

Pros:

Global exposure: Can experience diverse healthcare systems

Cost effective: Might cost less to study medicine abroad

Specialisation: Few countries offer better specialisation options

East admission: Criteria might be less competitive

Residency: Few countries offer PG medical training

Cons:

Cultural adjustment: Adapting to a new country and culture can be challenging

Licensing exams: FMGs may need to pass additional exams to practice in certain countries

Return to India: Licensing and accreditation could be quite challenging

Apathy: FMGs tend to get no help from gov't

PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGE IN INDIA

Pros:

Regional familiarity: Students are aware of language culture and healthcare system

Closer to home: They can travel home whenever

Better education quality: Few private medical colleges rank higher than government colleges

Less hassle: A better chance at and practicing in India

Cons:

Higher fees: Higher tuition fees than colleges abroad

Quality concerns: Not the same level of facilities, faculty and research opportunities

Distance from home: Might be located in remote areas, away from major cities

Practical knowledge: This aspect might be lacking where the patient count is less

Ultimately, the decision between being an FMG or studying in a private medical college in India depends on circumstances, finances, career goals and preferences. Students should weigh all options before making a decision

Fulfil your dreams of pursuing MBBS abroad with these scholarships

1. **Algoma University Chancellor's Award:** It is offered by Algoma University in Canada and aims to recognise academic excellence and support students' educational pursuits
2. **NCI Master's Edge Scholarship:** Provided by the National College of Ireland (NCI), is available to Indian students pursuing master's degree programmes abroad
3. **JGC-S Scholarship Foundation:** A scholarship programme established by JGC Corporation, a Japanese engineering company, it is open to international students, including Indian students, who wish to pursue higher education in Japan
4. **Sato Yo International Scholarship Foundation:** It is a Japanese organisation that provides scholarships to international students, including Indian students studying abroad
5. **Pearl International Award:** A scholarship programme offered by Pearl Academy, an educational institution with campuses in India

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

Medical dreams are not limited by borders. So, here are a set of examinations for medical professionals to unravel opportunities around the world:

EXAMS THAT CAN OPEN DOORS AROUND THE WORLD

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE): Three-step exam for licensure in the US

Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE): Two-part exam for licensure to practice in Canada

Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board Test (PLAB): Those who want to practice medicine in the UK

Australian Medical Council Exam (AMC): For those who wish to practice medicine in Australia

New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX): For those who want to work as a doctor in New Zealand

Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) for Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS): For those seeking licensure to practice in Saudi Arabia

Dubai Health Authority (DHA) Assessment: For professionals looking to work in Dubai, UAE

Health Authority Abu Dhabi (HAAD) Assessment: For medical professionals seeking to work in Abu Dhabi, UAE

Qatar Prometric Exam: For practicing in Qatar

MBBS in India: What is government doing to improve it?

In recent years, major developments were seen in this sector and more are in the pipeline

The number of students pursuing an MBBS degree abroad is witnessing a steady rise each year. However, it is essential to acknowledge that the government is making concerted efforts to enhance medical education and upgrade the healthcare infrastructure within the country.

"India will be a centre for medical tourism and our medical graduates will be recognised for their contribution to the medical field," says Dr Sunil Natha Mhaske, Dean, Dr Vithalrao Vikhe Patil Foundation Medical College, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

"The fee is below ₹1.5 lakh in about 400 government medical colleges across India," points out Dr Narendra Paliwal, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology at Medical College Baroda, Gujarat.

The revision of MBBS by the National Medical Commission (NMC) has made a positive impact, opines Dr Arvind Pandey, Professor of Anatomy at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal Academy.

REVOLUTIONARY REFORMS: INDIA'S CHANGING MAP OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), in its report titled Governance Reforms in Medical Education, has highlighted key reforms implemented between 2014-22 to strengthen medical education in India. Here's a consolidated list:

1. **The National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill**
It was incorporated in August 2019, for "curbing outlets of malpractice and boosting visibility, accountability and quality in the governance of medical education." Four autonomous committees, like Undergraduate Medical Education Board were set up

2. **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**
Proposed in 2003, the PMSSY is still being implemented. It seeks to address the lack of quality medical education and healthcare in rural and remote areas. All 22 new AIIMS and a few medical colleges have been set up under this

3. **The National Board of Examinations in Medical Science (NBEMS)**
Established in 1975, reforms undertaken by it recently include the creation of advanced skill/virtual learning centres, short term skill enhancement courses, accreditation reforms and several other steps

4. **Meritocracy: Examination reforms**
NEET was introduced in 2016, followed by the National Exit Test (NExT) in 2019. In addition, common counselling replaced counselling held by medical colleges separately in 2016. All these reforms are aimed at the government's One Nation: One Exam initiative

5. **Education and skill-based reforms**
In 2019, the new competency-based curriculum was introduced. The District Residency Programme of 2021 marks a shift in strengthening the medical infrastructure, it enables PG students to gain exposure and rural hospitals to gain doctors

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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31.07.2023
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Lunar Vehicle

Apollo 15 became the first mission to use the Lunar Roving Vehicle on this day in 1971. The astronauts spent 18 and half hours on the moon

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

The LRV was a lightweight, electric vehicle designed to operate in the low-gravity vacuum of the Moon, driven by astronauts David Scott and Jim Irwin

PERFORMANCE

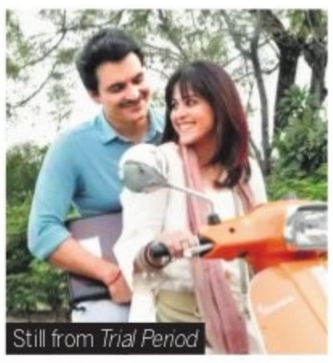
The LRV performed all its functions on the Moon with no major anomalies. It could travel at almost 10 mph and had a range of about 55 miles

BACKGROUND

General Motors and Boeing, the engineers, scrambled to finish the design in time under threats that NASA would cancel the rover programme

Check out what's happening in the city

PG 2



Still from *Trial Period*

Still from *The Fame Game*

LIVING LIFE ON HIS OWN TERMS

Manav Kaul, who is in B'luru, speaks about his latest movie *Trial Period*, and keeping a low profile despite being big in Bolllywood

MONIKA MONALISA

On a busy Sunday afternoon at Anju's Cafe in Ranga Shankara, actor Manav Kaul opts for a corner table, unnoticed by the crowd, as he waits for our rendezvous. All of a sudden when he moves tables, his presence is noticed. And the next second, he is bombarded with selfies and autographs (yes, that still exists!) requests.

Yet, Kaul says it's not difficult to keep a low-key lifestyle for an actor like him. "I go to different cities. Whenever I travel to Lucknow and Delhi, I go to my favourite cafe and take a walk. Since I am a morning person, I go for walks and there is no one to bother me. I want to live my life the way I want," says Kaul, who went to a small food joint, Swathi Restaurant in JP Nagar, for lunch without anyone noticing him.

Kaul was in the city for his latest theatre directorial *Tumhaare Baare Mein*. Though a popular stage person, he is seen in select roles in movies. Some of the popular names in his filmography are *Kai Po Che!*, *Jolly LLB 2*, *Tumhari Sulu*, and *The Fame Game* to name a few, with each role being very different from the other. According to the actor, he doesn't do too much work not because he is choosy, but instead he has his priorities clear. "I write a lot and love travelling. When I travel I am away for a month. I don't have time for too many films so I have to prioritise. I start doing things which I have not done before. I don't want to get bored of acting because it's something I love. It doesn't bother me even if I haven't worked for a year," says Kaul, whose last movie was *Trial Period*, a family drama with Genelia Deshmukh. Both the actors were seen in a funny reel which surfaced a week ago on the internet. "Genelia is quite fun. I am not at all a reels person but she directed me and that's how it came to be," he says with a laugh.

Born in Baramulla, he then moved to a small town called Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh. Later he travelled from Bhopal to Mumbai. Kaul feels lucky to have been to so many places which can be seen in his work. "The spectra is huge in terms of the places I have lived in when I write a story. It has that richness that comes from living in different places at different times. I am from the pre-mobile and pre-Instagram era where I used to meet people face to face," says Kaul, who has recently written a book on Kashmir called *Rooh*.

An author, director, playwright and actor, Kaul wears many hats. So, where does he feel at home? "Sitting in front of a desk, acting in front of the camera or just being in the rehearsal room gives me a sense of home. I feel that variety is what adds to the richness of life, something I have realised late in life. Everything I do complements each other. Being a director makes me a better actor, from writing I am a better human being. I am a better human being because I travel frequently," explains the 46-year-old.

Kaul has a new-found passion for sports, having picked up badminton, cricket and most recently lawn tennis. "Roger Federer was my all-time favourite and when he retired, I felt just so bad," says Kaul, who is travelling back to Mumbai and then to Pune for his play.

Pic: Nagaraja Gadekal

Recipe for success

City-based entrepreneur sisters Suhasini and Anindita Sampath, whose health food company recently received a multi-crore investment from an FMCG giant, speak to *CE* about the deal

Suhasini and Anindita Sampath

DESE GOWDA

After nearly three years of trials, working with hundreds of bakers, city-based sisters Suhasini and Anindita Sampath perfected their recipe for an energy bar. Launched in 2015, Yoga Bar, a healthy energy snack, made entirely out of natural ingredients – was supposedly the first in India. Fast forward to 2023, the company received an approximate investment to the tune of ₹255 crore, from Indian conglomerate ITC for a majority stake, with a promise of 100 per cent acquisition over the next three years at an overall valuation of over ₹500 crore.

It all started when the Sampath sisters were living in New York. "I was a student at Wharton and Anindita was with Ernst and Young. The two of us went to a yoga studio and we used to buy protein bars after each session. One day, Anindita said that if she made a bar like this, she would call it 'Yoga Bar'," recalls Suhasini.

The duo felt that India was a perfect market for healthy energy bars, given the lack of similar offerings in the country at the time. Soon, they were back in the country and started experimenting with various recipes. "We realised that there were large companies in the West selling healthy products, but there were no similar offerings in India. We decided to make a product, made entirely out of clean and locally-sourced products," adds Suhasini.

Starting with their first product, multigrain energy bars, from a small operation in Indiranagar, Yoga Bar had to initially overcome the commonly-held notion that health doesn't sell in India. But it quickly grew to be a household name and expanded to other products, including protein bars in 2018. Suhasini emphasises that having her sister as a business partner was a major advantage. "Finding a co-founder is never easy. So working with my sibling made a lot of sense," she says, adding that the people frequenting yoga studios in Bengaluru were their initial customers. "Obviously, Bengaluru has a large population of health-conscious consumers, so we found it a lot easier to sell in a city like this," she adds.

Despite the sale of a majority stake to ITC, Yoga Bar continues to operate as an independent entity. Suhasini hopes that the consumer juggernauts' distribution arm will boost Yoga Bar's growth. "ITC is fairly new to FMCG. They have been aggressive in growing their portfolios. Which is why it made sense to go with them," Suhasini concludes.

CITY READ

Barcelona bar to make debut in Bengaluru for bar takeover

The Leela Palace, Bengaluru's Kyoto speakeasy - ZLB23 will transform India's cocktail culture in collaboration with modern-day neo-speakeasy and bar Paradiso from Barcelona. Master mixologists Giacomo Giannotti and Luca Cinalli are bringing their concept of 'paradise' to India. The Kryptonite and the Evolution Negroni, two specialty drinks at Paradiso that include a mix of flavours and creative presentations, are some of the signature curations patrons can enjoy. The bar takeover is happening on August 10, 8pm onwards at ZLB23, A Kyoto Speakeasy. For reservations, WhatsApp 9632060433.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner will win a voucher worth ₹2,500 from SkyDeck by Sherlock's

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Horse Gram 2) Bánh Xeo 3) Kvass

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Chandan S 2) Rohith Shankar 3) R Rajesh

Labour of Love

Ahead of the 13th edition of the Bangalore Queer Film Festival, here is everything you can expect during the three-day programme

Still from *Valentine*

TUNIR BISWAS

The Bangalore Queer Film Festival (BQFF) has been an annual active cultural event in the city for 14 years. With its first edition in 2010, the festival is all set to premier its 13th edition on August 4, 5 and 6. The inaugural day will take place at the Alliance Française de Bangalore in Vasanth Nagar, while the remaining two days will happen at Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan in Indiranagar.

Joshua Muyiwa, one of the organisers of the festival, finds it funny to look 14 years back when it all first started. "Fourteen years ago, there was not much space for queer content other than private screenings organised by folks who had travelled abroad and gotten some DVDs. Compared to then, there's a specific row for LGBTQIA+ content on streaming services like Netflix. A far cry from how it was years ago, which is why we started BQFF then," he shares.

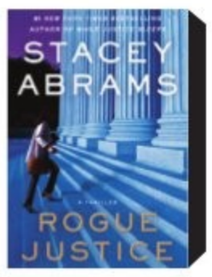
Still from *Bad Behaviour*

Just like in the past few years, Muyiwa expects a high footfall. "I don't want to oversell too much, but it's extremely packed. More than 1,000 people come each day. And I mean the auditorium can only host about 400 occupants, so people wait in line for the films they want to see. This festival is also about meeting various people. The focus is on the films but many also come to socialise and interact with each other," he says.

Still from *The Quiet Solace of Sunset*

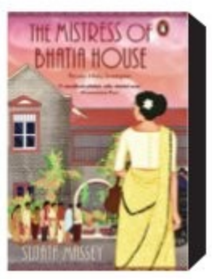
Regarding some of the highlights of this year's rendition, Muyiwa elaborates, "This year, we have received our first film from Tibet. It is titled *The Quiet Solace of Sunset*, a short film directed by Tenzin Choedon. The film is in Tibetan and English and is about friendship and about discovering their sexuality. Then we again have our first film received from Myanmar named *Two Souls* directed by Myat Noe. The film is about two refugees from Myanmar who are in Thailand, their relationship with their country and falling in love with each other. There is a film coming from Indonesia called *Closeting*. We have films coming from other Indian states as well. *Bad Behaviour* is one of the films coming from Bengaluru. It is made by Rency Philip along with Bhavana Rajendran and Sharanya Ramprakash. If you notice, I am mentioning a lot of names from Southeast Asia, which is a focus of the festival in many ways. We also show a lot of local films." He mentions that a running theme prevalent at this year's BQFF since it's their 13th edition, is horror films of various kinds, including queer horror.

BOOK NOOK



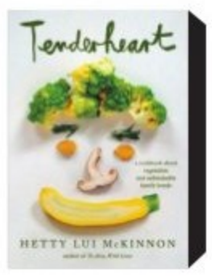
Rogue Justice
by Stacey Abrams

A thriller in which a blackmailed federal judge, a secret court, and a brazen murder may lead to an unprecedented national crisis.



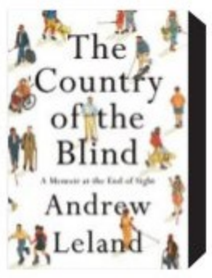
The Mistress of Bhatia House
Sujata Massey

Bombay's only female solicitor, Perveen Mistry, grapples with class divisions, sexism, and complex family dynamics as she seeks justice for a mistreated young woman.



Tenderheart
by Hetty Lui McKinnon

The acclaimed author of To Asia, With Love explores how food connects us to our loved ones and gives us the tools to make vegetarian recipes that are healthful, economical, and bursting with flavor.



The Country of the Blind
by Andrew Leland

A witty and revelatory personal narrative of the author's transition from sightedness to blindness and his quest to learn about blindness as a rich culture all its own. Thought-provoking and brimming with warmth and humor.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Artist in You

Have you always wanted to try your hand at painting? This is the best place for you, learn how to paint on wood using acrylic paint and take home your beautiful artwork on a coaster.

WHEN: July 31, 6pm **WHERE:** Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Pottery Making

Learn the art of pottery with skilled instructors as they guide you through hand-building, wheel-throwing, turning and glazing techniques to create unique and stunning pieces.

WHEN: July 31, 10am
WHERE: Wheel and Potter Pottery Studio, Srinivasa Nagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Travel Stories

Go join fellow travel lovers and share your travel stories. Also, stand a chance at winning a prize if you win the anonymous vote for your story.

WHEN: August 1, 7pm
WHERE: SmallWorld ST Bed, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Soulful Music

Sway to an evening filled with melodious songs of Mohammed Rafi by noted musicians to commemorate his death anniversary.

WHEN: July 31, 7pm
WHERE: Bengaluru Gayana Samaaja, Basavanagudi
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Refreshing Exploration

Written by Abhishek Iyengar, *Wedding Ring* revolves around the relationship of a would-be couple. It delves into aspects of love and commitment.

WHEN: August 2, 7.30pm **WHERE:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Night Out

Unwind from a hectic day at work with some of the best Bollywood, EDM, Hip Hop and Punjabi music in the city. You don't want to miss out on this one!

WHEN: August 1, 8pm
WHERE: Baadshah-Casual Dining and Cocktail Bar, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Comedy Night

Watch some of the local comedians like Anand Rathnam, Somnath Padhy, Abhinav Anand and more turn your evening into a laughter riot with some good food. **WHEN:** July 31, 8pm **WHERE:** Bistro Claytopia, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

DIFFERENT HUES

Visitors admire art works at the recently-held Rising Beyond, a group exhibition by women artists at Sublime Galleria, Vittal Mallya Road | VINOD KUMAR T

QUICK FIX

VIRAL BARBIE PINK PASTA

Contributed by **Sarika Gupta,** Thriruvananthapuram (Instagram: @worldfood_onmy_table)

INGREDIENTS

- **Pasta:** 250 g
- **Onion:** 1, large
- **Walnuts:** 1/4 cup
- **Cream cheese:** 2 tbsp
- **Salt:** 1 tsp+ 1 tsp
- **Beetroot:** 2, large
- **Garlic:** 10-12 cloves
- **Pumpkin seeds:** 1 tbsp
- **Olive oil:** 2 tbsp

METHOD

- Peel and slice the beetroot and onions. Toss in oil and salt along with garlic cloves.
- Spread evenly on an oven tray. Cover the entire tray with aluminium foil.
- Slow roast in a preheated oven at 200°C for 45 minutes until tender.
- Toast walnuts and pumpkin seeds.
- Reserve a few kernels and grind the rest.
- Cool and grind the beetroot, onions and garlic in the same jar.
- Boil pasta along with salt. Reserve the pasta water.
- Mix hot boiled pasta and beetroot and walnut paste. Add some hot pasta water to adjust the consistency.
- Serve warm in individual bowls and garnish with toasted walnuts and pumpkin seeds. Place small dollops of cream cheese and drizzle with a little olive oil.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

BAKASANA PADA GARUDASANA
(CROW POSE WITH EAGLE LEGS)

This is a creative and challenging variation of the foundational pose, Kakasana (Crow Pose) with a difference of legs being wrapped or locked in Eagle Legs. This pose requires a strong foundation as it is categorised under advanced level poses

STEPS

- Squat on the floor with feet apart. Balance on the toes and place the hands flat on the floor, directly in front of the feet. Elbows should be slightly bent.
- Lean forward and adjust the knees. The inside of the knees should touch the outside of the upper arms. They should be closer to the armpits.
- Lean further forward and transfer the body weight onto the arms and lift the feet off the floor.
- Balance on the hands with the knees resting firmly on the upper arms.
- Bring the feet together in Garudasana (Eagle Pose). Focus the gaze at the nose tip.
- Hold in this position for as long as comfortable.

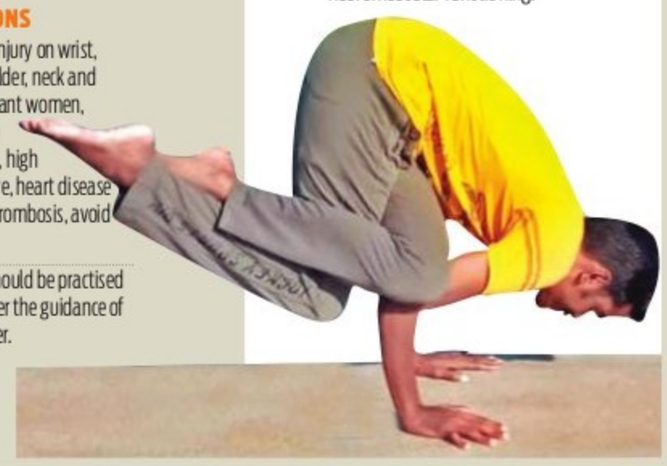
BENEFITS

- This helps to develop your self-trust.
- It aids to balance the nervous and endocrine systems.
- It strengthens arms, wrist joints, shoulders and wrists.
- Helps in relieving stress and anxiety along with headaches and depressions.
- Helps in overcoming various digestive disorders.
- Increases the blood flow to the stomach.
- Improves the functioning of various internal organs.
- Improves concentration and focus.
- Corrects the abnormal breathing pattern.
- Activates Manipura (Navel) Chakra, which boosts the confidence, power and control of the practitioner.
- Improves neurological and neuromuscular functioning.

LIMITATIONS

People with injury on wrist, elbows, shoulder, neck and knees, pregnant women, patients with hypertension, high blood pressure, heart disease or cerebral thrombosis, avoid this pose.

This asana should be practised correctly under the guidance of a yoga teacher.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

RUDRAMAMBAPURAM (Telugu)

Two rival fishermen clash on the burning issue of using ring nets. With politics adding fuel to the fire, how will the fisherfolk resolve their conflict?

Cast: Arjun Reddy, Prameela, Ajay Gosh.

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

SULAIKHA MANZIL (Malayalam)

The marriage between Haala and Ameen is decided quickly, with very little time for preparation, and it leads to a dramatic ride for the families.

Cast: Anarkali Marikar, Lukman, Amalda Liz

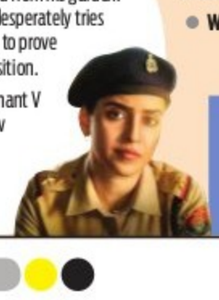
- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

KATHAL (Hindi)

A local politician's prized jackfruit trees have disappeared from his garden. A young policewoman desperately tries to solve this strange case to prove herself worthy of her position.

Cast: Sanya Malhotra, Anant V Joshi, Rajpal Yadav

- **Watch on:** Netflix



CHAKRAVYUHAM :THE TRAP (Telugu)

Siri, a business partner and a housewife, was found with her throat slit. The investigation officer tries to solve the case. Can he figure out who killed her and why?

Cast: Ajay, Gnaneswari Kandregula, Vivek Trivedi

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

HALF CA (Hindi, series)

The series represents the experiences of CA aspirants, narrated through the lens of Archi and her friends. It touches upon multiple aspects from preparations to the finals and throws light onto the fact why this is one of the toughest professions in the world.

Cast: Ahsaas Channa, Prit Kamani, Gyanendra Tripath

- **Watch on:** Amazon Mini TV

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

ASVIN (Tamil)

Exploring an abandoned British mansion once owned by a mysterious archaeologist, a group pf vloggers stumbles upon an evil presence lurking in its walls.

Cast: Vasanth Ravi, Vimala Raman

- **Watch on:** Netflix

THAARAM THEERTHA KOODARAM (Malayalam)

A food delivery boy, Sanjay who is abandoned by his family, tries to take care of two homeless girls by giving them shelter in his accommodation without the knowledge of the landlord. But things do not happens as per his plans and he falls in love with one of the girls which complicates things further.

Cast: Karthik Ramakrishnan, Nainita Maria, Vineeth Vishwam

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Videos

FOREIGN

THE GRAY MAN (English)

When a shadowy CIA agent uncovers damning agency secrets, he's hunted across the globe by a sociopathic rogue operative who's put a bounty on his head.

Cast: Ryan Gosling, Chris Evans, Ana de Armas

- **Watch on:** Netflix

NINETEEN TO TWENTY (Korean)

A group of young adults share their last week of teens and first week of twenties together – experiencing freedom and all the "firsts" of adulthood.

Cast: Kyuhyun, Kim Ji-eun, Lee Su-hyun

- **Watch on:** Netflix

KNOCK AT THE CABIN (English)

While vacationing at a remote cabin in the woods, a young girl and her parents are taken hostage by four armed strangers who demand they make an unthinkable choice to avert the apocalypse. Confused, scared and with limited access to the outside world, the family must decide what they believe before all is lost.

Cast: Dave Bautista, Jonathan Groff, Ben Aldridge

- **Watch on:** JioCinema

THEY CLONED TYRONE (English)

An eerie series of events leads an unlikely trio down a rabbit hole into a sinister neighborhood conspiracy.

Cast: John Boyega, Jamie Foxx, Teyonah Parris

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION	
Netflix:	₹199/month
Prime Video:	₹299/month
aha:	₹699/year
Disney+Hotstar:	₹899/year
JioCinema:	₹999/year
Mubi:	₹299/month
ZEE5:	₹699/year
SonyLIV:	₹299/month

THE GOOD DOCTOR

Paediatrician Dr Sayed Mujahid Husain, who has become immensely popular on social media recently, ensures his fame doesn't interfere with his work

EXPRESS FEATURES

IT can be said that **Dr Sayed Mujahid Husain**, a paediatrician in the city, is doing the job he was born to do: treating children well, both medically and emotionally. Over the past year, the doctor and his clinic in HSR Layout, Goodwill Children's Clinic, gained a lot of popularity on the internet after a video posted by a patient's family went viral across social media.

"I have been a practising paediatrician for the last 10 years and my style has largely been the same. I try to make my patients laugh and make them comfortable. Last year in September, one of my patient's mother requested me to record a video. She wanted her daughter's vaccination on tape. She happened to upload it and that video shot up. It got around three million views in about 10 days. Then I started getting requests from many people, and I was so surprised by the warm reception. For me, whatever I was doing was part of my job. I never realised it to be a big deal. Eventually, I started uploading a few videos on social media, and the rest is history," shares Dr Husain, who presently has amassed around 896k followers on Instagram and 670k subscribers on YouTube.

> *For me, whatever I was doing was part of my job. I never realised it to be a big deal. Eventually, I started uploading a few videos on social media, and the rest is history*
>
> Dr Sayed Mujahid Husain, paediatrician

Parents are often wary of paediatricians for their children for obvious reasons. For Dr Husain, families from all over the country have been taking flights to receive his consultation. "It actually adds a huge burden on my shoulder. It makes me all the more responsible and accountable for my diagnoses. Recently, a patient had come all the way from Haryana, can you imagine? They flew down to Bengaluru. The expectations are very high. But I am very upfront with them. I don't claim to be the best doctor in the country. I might be a little popular now but that's about it. If a certain case is outside of my expertise, I immediately recommend the patient to a better-suited doctor. There is no reason to travel all this way to meet me when very capable doctors are already available nearby. Sometimes, some families come just to meet me and get their children vaccinated, despite being aware of good paediatricians near their homes. For them, I say welcome (chuckles) as it is my pleasure," he says.

The doctor doesn't let his fame come in the way of his work. "See, we doctors are not used to such exposure and limelight. We are always into the medical field and attend events around our work. In the initial days, I was a little taken aback by the constant rise in followers. Then I studied social media a bit to get an idea of what was going on. Primarily, what I realised was that people were loving me for my job and the way I deal with kids. And that always will be my primary focus. I can never get deviated from that," explains Dr Husain, who is also the co-founder of Hungry Koala, a venture which was started by him and his wife to provide nourishing food for children.

Sustainable practices in the brews

BREWING, as we know it, is not a sustainable practice. The process is highly energy-intensive, it uses large amounts of water, and generates high volumes of wastewater and organic waste, not to forget the spent grains and hops, which are an environmental hazard. Therefore, innovative, entrepreneurial, and technology-led responses to these existential threats, is the need of the hour. Recently, many breweries are adopting strict preventive measures to reduce their environmental footprint. Here are some sustainable practices followed by local breweries:

Water conservation: You may have heard a friend sarcastically joke, "Thirsty? Have a beer. It's practically 95 per cent water." Although that's all in good fun, it turns out that on an average, a brewery uses three to seven barrels of water for just one barrel of beer. Water is used for cleaning, cooling, and packaging the beer too. So how can we minimise the use of water?

One way to do so is by recapturing the wastewater from the brewing processes. Many brewers currently, reclaim the wastewater from the filtering process and put it for alternate uses. Many are exploring ways to purify the water to make it fit for cooking.

Waste management: Indian breweries are reducing waste generation by implementing waste segregation, recycling, and composting practices. The by-products of the brewing process, such as spent grain and yeast, are used as animal feed or fertiliser. All of the waste product from grain, yeast and hops is taken by local farmers and used for stock feed or composting. Sometimes we even use spent grain in our kitchen to make food products for our restaurant. Spent grains can be used as filler for homemade dog treats or as a supplemental feed for cattle.

MIXOLOGY
Pradip Rangole

(The writer is brewmaster, Gold Rush Brews)

Energy efficiency: Breweries are now adopting energy-efficient brewing technologies to reduce their carbon footprint. Most are moving towards renewable energy sources to power operations. Some breweries have already added solar panels, installed onsite wastewater treatment plants, insulated brewing vessels and recaptured steam from the brewing process.

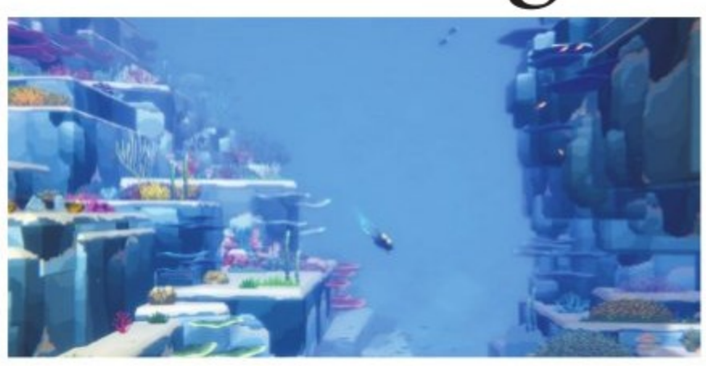
Packaging: With a plethora of options available, adopting sustainable packaging practices such as use of biodegradable materials like glass bottles and cans, is the way forward.

Community engagement: Co-creation of value, the creation of symbiotic and sustainable inter-relationships is important. There are many local communities, start-ups and organisations working at the grass-root level to support sustainable initiatives. By engaging with them and tapping into collective intelligence, we can facilitate sustainable development on a local scale.

Tea-time of management simulators

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi
@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)



IT'S not often that a rich acquaintance calls you while you're lazing at the beach. After a conversation, you catch the next flight and find yourself in a boat dressed in diving gear.

This is the start of *Dave the Diver*. In my experience, I have often been engaged in different occupations within these games — assassin, medieval alchemist, an adventurous fox, and even a ferryman of the dead. Compared to these careers, my work as a diver seems rather bland. But I am not complaining. Because playing *Dave the Diver* after playing a barbarian in *Diablo IV*, is like sipping tea after a long day.

The game is described as an 'adventure RPG'. But I disagree. In essence, *Dave the Diver* is a 2D pixel management simulator, with elements of an adventure game. The game revolves around the stressful work life of Dave, a reluctant employee of a dive-boat owner called Cobra, and a sushi bar chef named Bancho. Set in repetitive day and night cycles, the gameplay within each day changes based on the work he does. In the mornings, he dives into the ocean floor, and in the evenings, he moonlights as the waiter of the sushi bar. For the dive missions, Dave usually gets requests to fetch items that are lost in the ocean. Apart from this, he must also catch fish, which Bancho will later use to cook dinner for customers. While Bancho is initially less snobbish about the fish choices, the requirements evolve as the Sushi Bar gets more popular. This makes catching fish not all that straightforward.

The diving adventures become more complicated when you realise you have about a day to catch the right amount of the correct type of fish and other lost items, while keeping in mind a list of other constraints. Such as – the weight that Dave can lug around underwater, the limits of the oxygen tank, and the ability to swim away or attack the nastier fish.

The mild ordeal of the mornings is worth it though, when you realise the more rewarding evening mini-games. Every evening, Dave creates a custom menu based on his fish haul for the day, delegates work to employees, and waits on tables. The hurried panic of waiting tables and pouring green tea for customers is weirdly meditative, because the stakes feel quite low. Made a loss in the Sushi Bar today? It's alright, you can sell some underwater treasures tomorrow and make up for it! I greatly enjoy the growth of the Sushi Bar as the days progress. Hiring new employees, and creating new recipes aside, Dave also needs to keep an eye on the social media responses for the bar — optimising the dishes and serving for maximum satisfaction.

While these two main occupations in the game remain unchanged, the game has a way of staying fresh as the days march on. There are always new fish to find, new treasures to hunt. There's also better ways to navigate the underwaters, and Dave befriends new people to help him with the process. For example, we meet Duff, the weapons guy that makes shiny new guns for Dave to use on the more violent sharks.

Only a month since it's release on Windows and macOS, 'Dave the Diver' is already incredibly popular and well-loved. Developed and published by Mintrocket, the game is currently priced at ₹880 on the Steam store.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) SHABANA Residing at No.58/3, 1st Cross. Hosahalli Main Road, Padarayanapura, Bangalore – 560 026, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHABANA** to **(NEW NAME) SHABEENA TAJ** vide affidavit dated 23.06.2023 sworn before Notary Vatsala Bangalore.

I, (OLD NAME) KOUSAR Residing at No.14/3, 1st Main Road, Padarayanapura, Near Shafiya Masjidi, Bangalore – 560 026. have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) KOUSAR** to **(NEW NAME) KOUSAR FIRDOSE** vide affidavit dated 23.06.2023 sworn before Notary Vatsala Bangalore.

I, **SAMARTH GANGADHARAN NARAYANAN**, S/o. **P G Narayanan,** R/at No.379, 8th Main milk Colony, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru -560055, have changed my name to **SAMARTH NARAYANAN,** vide affidavit dt:28.07.2023 before Notary **K.V. Mani,** Bengaluru.

I, **SREAYANS** S/o. **Sarang Shamrao Kasar** R/at No. G-303 G. Block, Platinum City HMT Main Road Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru-560022 have changed my name to **SREAYANS SARANG KASAR,** Vide affidavit dated: 29/7/2023 Before Notary **K.V. Mani,** Bengaluru.

I, **SUSHRIRANJITA ROUT** R/at No.03, B Block, NCN Daimond Apt, Swamy Vivekananda Layout, Amrutha Halli, Bengaluru- 560092, have changed my name to **SUSHRI RANJITA BEHERA** vide affidavit dated: **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

I, **VEERAPPAN ARVIND CHETTIAR,** S/o. **Somaiah Veerappan Chettiar (Alias– S M Veerappan),** R/at No. 419, VRR Fortuna, Sarjapur Road, Near Decathlon, Carmelaram Post, Chikkabellandur, Bengaluru – 560035, have changed my name to **V R ARVIND (V R known as VEERAPPAN Only)** vide affidavit dt:28.07.2023 before Notary **K.V. Mani,** Bengaluru.

I, **VIGNESH RAMACHANDRA NARAYANAN** , S/o. **P G Narayanan,** R/at No.379, 8th Main milk Colony, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560055, have changed my name to **VIGNESH NARAYANAN,** vide affidavit dt:28.07.2023 before Notary **K.V. Mani,** Bengaluru.

I, **ZULEKHA BI UZMA M** R/at No.578, 2nd Cross, 6th A Main, HBR Layout 4th Block, Bengaluru- 560043, have changed my name to **ZULEKHA BI UZMA** vide affidavit dated: 28/07/2023 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

I, Shreyas Shashidhar Pai, S/o Shashidhar Pai, aged about 19 years, R/at No. 18, Kapila Enclave, Kanakapura Road, H B Samaja Junction Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru 560004, have changed my name from **Shreyas Pai** to **Shreyas Shashidhar Pai,** vide affidavit dated 25/7/2023 sworn to before Puttaramaiah advocate and notary Bangalore.

I, Vaibbhav Pujari Aged about 32 years S/o Siddappa Pujari and resident of No 815, Kaivalya Marga, Siddartha Nagar, Mysore, Karnataka 570011, have changed my name from **Vybhav Pujari** to **Vaibbhav Pujari,** vide affidavit dated 28/7/2023 sworn to before N. Sandhya advocate and notary Bangalore.

I, Shashikanth Poojary, S/o. Rama Guda Poojary, R/at No.05, 1st Floor, 2nd A Main, 4th Cross, Gnana Mandir, SKM Road, Hongasandra, Bengaluru - 560068, Karnataka, India. I have changed my name from **'SHASHIKANTHA POOJARY'** to **'SHASHIKANTH POOJARY'** Sworn before H S Sakalesh Aradhya, Advocate & Notary, Bangalore, Vide affidavit dated 28.07.2023.

NAME CHANGE

I, G. ASHWANI KUMAR MALLIA, aged about 47 years father of AISHWARYA ASHWANI MALLYA residing at No.15, Radhakrishna Bhavan, SBI Officers Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore -560079, declare that our minor daughter name in her National Public School, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010 record is mentioned as AISHWARYA A MALLYA but correct name is AISHWARYA ASHWANI MALLYA vide affidavit dated 29-07-2023 sworn before Notary S.R. Paramashivaiah, Bengaluru-560003

I, **K SUDHAKARA ACHARI**, Aged about 51 years, S/o. K Munirathnam Achari, No. T4, Prarthasarathi Royal Apartments, BOB Colony, 5th Cross, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **K SUDHAKARACHARI** to **K SUDHAKARA ACHARI** vide affidavit dated 28.07.2023 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

I, K.H. RATHNAMMA (New Name), Aged about 48 years, W/o. K. L. Doddappa, Residing at No. 128, 2nd Main Road, Puttenahalli Palya, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Near Shanimahathma Temple, Bangalore-560078, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from RAJANI.H. (Old Name) to K.H. RATHNAMMA (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called K.H. RATHNAMMA (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 26/07/2023, before Notary Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, Bangalore.

I, SYEDA BANU W/o. Alla Bakash R/a Flat #34, Ground Floor, 6th Cross, 6th A Main, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore- 560029 Declare That My Correct Name is **SYEDA BANU** and **My Correct Date of Birth is 01.01.1970** But in My Passport No. L1339122. My Name Wrongly Recorded as **SAYEEDA BANU** instead of **SYEDA BANU.** And My Date of Birth Also Wrongly Recorded as 11.10.1967 **instead of 01.01.1970** vide affidavit dated: 25.07.2023 Sworn Before Notary Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
(ONE AND THE SAME PERSON NAME)

I, **Mr. GNANA PRAKASHAM** S/o Anthoni, R/at No.16, John Layout, Bettadasanapura, Begur Post, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560068, do hereby declare that as per my Aadhaar Card, Pan Card and in all my records my name is mentioned as **PRAKASH. A** and in my son's school records it is mentioned as **GNANA PRAKASHAM**, both the names are belongs to me only Vide affidavit dated.27.07.2023 sworn to before Advocate & Notary **K.V. Mani**, Bangalore.

I, **DEEPIKA NAGAKUMAR TUDAYEKAR**, W/o Nagakumar Tudayekar Aged 35 years Residing at No-24, Cavery Layout, Near Canara Bank, Mariyannapalya, H A Farm Post, Bangalore-560024, have changed my name to **DEEPIKA TUDAYEKAR,** vide affidavit dated: 29.07.2023 before Notary, **VIJAYALAKSHMI K**, Bengaluru.

I, **SUNITHA BASAVARAJU**, W/o Umesh R.B, R/at Jenukalu Railyway Station Road, Nalanda School Road, Tiptur Town, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUNITHA UMESH** to **SUNITHA BASAVARAJU**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUNITHA BASAVARAJU** only, vide affidavit dated 28-07-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.R. UMESH** at Bangalore.

I, **MURALIMADHAVA MUGANAYAKANAKOTE RAMASHARMA, S/o. Sri. Muganayakanakote Ramasharma, aged 67 yrs, Residing at No.28, Old No. 2097/A, 8th A Main, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, have changed my name to MURALI MADHAV MUGANAYAKANAKOTE RAMASHARMA, vide affidavit dated: 28.07.2023 before notary L. SHANKARANARAYANA, Bengaluru.**

I, **SUSHMA C**, Date of Birth **16/03/1999 and resident of #15, 8th Cross, Behind Kuvempu College, Mallasandra, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560057, Karnataka, have changed my name to SUSHMA GOWDA C Vide Affidavit dated 30.07.2023 sworn before advocate and notary Kodi Nagappaya, Bangalore**

AFFIDAVIT

I, **H.S.LALITHAMMA**, W/o Late Krishnamurthy, aged about 67 years, residing at No. 143, 10th Main Road, 1st Cross, Shankarnagar, Bangalore-560 096, declare that the names **H.S.LALITHAMMA and H.S.LALITHA** belong to me only, and both names belong to one and the same person, Vide affidavit dated 28-07-2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary C.K. Anupama, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANJAY RAJ, DOB: 20/01/1988, S/o Muniraj R, resident of #54, Halasanahalli Road, Varthur, Bangalore-560087, KA, India have changed my name to SANJAY RAJ M Vide Affidavit dated 29.07.2023 sworn before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SWERNIMA RS, Wife of Ayush Joshi, residing at C 102, Sunshine Silicon Citi, Borewell Road, Nallurhalli, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560066, Karnataka, have changed my name to SWERNIMA JOSHI Vide Affidavit dated 29.07.2023 sworn before advocate and notary DEEPA. M, Bangalore

I, **CHETAN C.L** Father of MANASVINI S.C, Residing at No.301, Bhagavathi Krupa, 2nd Floor, Brightway School Road, Gowdanapalya, Bengaluru-560061, Karnataka, India, have changed my daughter name from **MANASVINI** to **MANASVINI S.C**, vide affidavit dated 28/07/2023 sworn before notary H.G PADMANABHA RAO, Reg. No.12464, Bangalore.

I, PRIYANKA MOHORIKAR, D/o. Nitin Ramesh Mohorikar, residing at #202, Nigam Homes, 13th Main, 5th Cross, Near Miranda School, Kodihalli, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560008, have changed my name from **PRIYANKA MOHORIKAR** to **PRIYANKA NITIN MOHORIKAR,** vide Affidavit Dated: 28/07/2023, before Notary S.RAMESH, Bengaluru.

SMART ADS

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AMR Ramesh wraps up intense six episodes of web Series *Veerappan - Hunger for Killing*

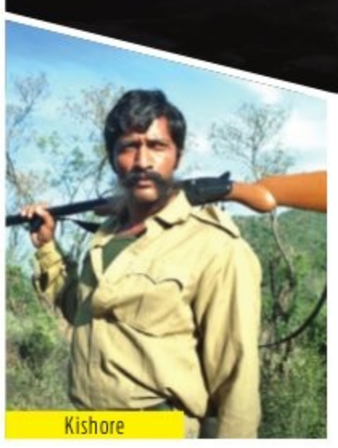
The series will mark the debut of the director's daughter, Vijetha Vasista, who takes on narration Duties in the intriguing series
Vijetha Vasista

CE FEATURES

FILMMAKERS have an unyielding fascination with the infamous Bandit Veerappan. A new docuseries - *The Hunt for Veerappan* is making its debut on Netflix, delving into the enigmatic rise and eventual downfall of this dreaded smuggler, as well as the gripping 20-year-long manhunt that unfolded in the southern regions of India.

Meanwhile, AMR Ramesh, the director behind *Attahasa*, a film centered on Veerappan's life, is currently engrossed in crafting a compelling web series titled *Veerappan - Hunger for Killing*. The web series, which is said to consist of 20 episodes, is produced by AMR Pictures, along with Shanthakumar. "I've completed a staggering four and a half hours of content, which will perfectly span across 6 episodes. As I've mentioned before, my web series will vividly portray the riveting stories of Shankar Bidari, Kempaiah, Harshavardhan Raju, Jyothi Prakash Mirji, Madhukar Shetty, and various IPS officers who had unique encounters with Veerappan, and

A still from the film


Kishore

I'm currently in the casting process for rest of the characters. I am keen on finding a suitable actor to take on the role of Shankar Bidri. Given that the series will be produced in Kannada, Tamil, and Hindi, I am looking to approach actors such as Madhavan, and Randeep Hooda, and the process is on," he adds.

The web series will feature Kishore as the forest brigand and Suresh Oberoi in the role of the late Kannada superstar Dr Rajkumar. Furthermore, it will serve as the debut of AMR Ramesh's daughter, Vijetha Vasista, who will be narrating the tale. More details will be revealed by mid-August, the director reveals.

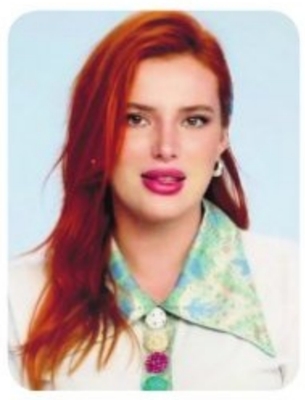
The film will have music scored by Raghav Sharma, cinematography by Vijay Milton, and editing by Anthony.

Release of *Madame Web* rescheduled...

CE FEATURES

AFTER multiple shifts in the release date, Sony has fixed Valentine's Day 2024 as the day *Madame Web* will finally hit the screens. Featuring Dakota Johnson in the titular role, *Madame Web* has a stellar ensemble including names like Sydney Sweeney, Emma Robers, Zosia Mamet, Tahar Rahim, and Mike Epps.

In the comics, *Web* is depicted as an old woman suffering from a severe autoimmune disorder called myasthenia gravis. Due to her illness, Web must always be connected to a life-support device. But her clairvoyant and psychic capabilities allow her to look within the spider world and occasionally aid the Spider-Man. This film, directed by SJ Clarkson, and written by Matt Sazama and Burk Sharpless, will be an origins story for the character.



Bella Thorne, Jack Kilmer to headline *The Tower*

CE FEATURES

ACTORS Bella Thorne and Jack Kilmer are teaming up for an upcoming film titled, *The Tower*. The film is helmed by Adam Sigal, best known for the 2022 American science-fiction comedy film Chariot. In the wake of the SAG-AFTRA strikes, the film received a SAG-AFTRA Interim Agreement, along with 101 other projects. This agreement permits members to participate in casting auditions and negotiations.

Billed to be a fantasy drama, *The Tower* tells the story of a mysterious mermaid who is trapped in a water tower and who gets lost even in the memories of the people.

The film is currently under production and also features Cam Gigandet and Chris Mullinax in significant roles.

Meanwhile, Bella Thorne is best known for her television shows, including Shake It Up (2010–2013) and Famous in Love (2017–2018). It is to be noted that *Paint Her Red,* Thorne's debut directorial short film, premiered at the Taormina Film Festival. On the acting front, the actor has a slew of films lined up, including Rumble Through the Dark, Saint Clare and The Trainer.

Jack Kilmer's best-known acting credits include *Palo Alto* and *Lords of Chaos*. It is to be noted that Kilmer narrated the documentary Val, based on the life and career of his father, Val Kilmer.

SUDEEP STARTS SHOOTING FOR HIS NEXT MULTILINGUAL FILM, KICHCHA 46

The first schedule of the action thriller, helmed by debutant director Vijay Karthikeya, kickstarted in areas around Chennai

A SHARADHAA

THE much-awaited Kichcha 46 went on floors today after Sudeep sought divine blessings at Tirupati on Saturday. The film, which will be released in Kannada, Tamil. Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi, marks the directorial debut of Vijay Karthikeya and is produced by Kalaipulli Thanu.

Billed as an action thriller set in and around Chennai, the first schedule of Kichcha 46 will be shot continuously for 65 days. In the teaser released earlier this month, we were introduced to the intense world of Kichcha 46 which came with the tagline - Demon War Begins.

The film is presented by V Creations and Sudeep's Kichcha Creations. Some of the confirmed technicians include art director Shivakumar and music composer Ajaneesh B Loknath, who are collaborating with Sudeep for the second time after *Vikrant Rona*. The cinematography will be handled by Shekar Chandra. Further details about the rest of the cast and crew are expected to be out soon.

Naveen Shankar, Archana Jois-starrer *Kshetrapati* locks release date

CE FEATURES

THE release date of *Kshetrapati,* directed by Srikanth Katagi and starring Naveen Shankar and Archana Jois, is fixed. The film is set to hit the theatres on August 18.

The team unveiled the new poster revealing the character names of the lead actors, offering a glimpse into the intriguing narrative set in the landscapes of North Karnataka. Accordingly, Naveen Shankar takes on the role of Basava, an engineer, while Archana Jois brings to life the character of Bhumika, an enterprising new-generation journalist.

Naveen Shankar and Archana Jois reunite in *Kshetrapati* after their strong performance in *Hondisi Bareyiri*.

The movie's teaser has already been generating buzz for its compelling narrative and visual appeal.

The film's music is scored by Ravi Basrur, and has YBV Shiva Sagar as the cinematographer.

Release date of *Kraven* ... postponed

CE FEATURES

KRAVEN the Hunter, the upcoming *Spider-Man* spin-off from Sony and Marvel, will hit the theatres on August 30, 2024. The film was earlier scheduled to hit the screens on October 6, and the release date has been pushed forward due to the ongoing Writers' and SAG-AFTRA strikes.

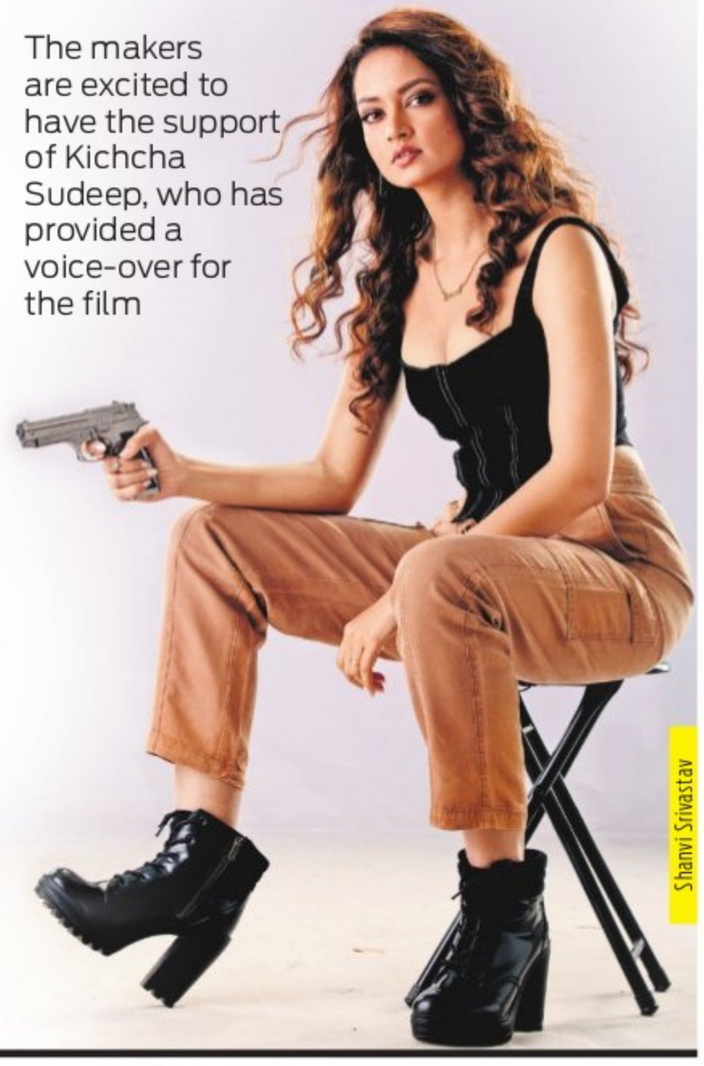
Though most plot details about the film are unknown for now, we know that the feature will focus on the titular villain, played by Aaron Taylor-Johnson. Prior to the film, Taylor-Johnson made his Marvel debut in the MCU as Pietro Maximoff/Quicksilver in Avengers: Age of Ultron and, briefly, in Captain America: The Winter Soldier.

Ritvik Muralidhar, Sudeep, and Ganesh

BAANG TO BE OUT ON THIS DATE

CE FEATURES

BAANG, a dark comedy action film, directed by Sree Ganesh Parashuram, has finally set its release date. The film is all set to hit theatres on August 18, prior to which, the makers unveiled the trailer recently. But that's not all - in the film starring Shanvi Srivastava, Raghu Dixit, as the principal cast, Sudeep is set to lend his support for the film, by giving a voice-over.

Director Ganesh couldn't hide his elation and shared, "As a team, we have grown up watching this star on the silver screen, rushing to catch his films on the first day, first show in jam-packed theaters, and whistling in admiration at his grand entry. It's an absolute dream come true to have him do the voice-over for our film. I am certain that his fans will be thrilled to hear him in *Baang*."

Ritvik Muralidhar, who has scored the music for the film has also acted in *Baang*, along with Sunil Gujjar and Natya Ranga in pivotal roles. The cinematography by Baang is by Uday Leela. The editing is done by Vijeth Chandra and the sound design by Naveen Kumar.